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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, August/September/October 2001

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07086

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXXII Number 4, 2001 Aug, Sept, Oct 2001

The Ninth Infantry Division Association 195th Board of Governors Meeting Held in Worcester, Mass. on October 20, 2001

The meeting took place at the Holiday Inn Motel, Worcester, Mass. President Al Perna of the Association called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were Dave Heller, Len Tomassone, Joe Killen, Adolph Wadalavage, Herb Olsen, Jack Blann and alternate from the Florida Chapter, Martin Gross. Also present were 2nd vice president Pat DeColli, Charles Libretto, George Brown, Al Ferrante, John Bonkowski, John Maloney, Bill Shea and Bill Ring.

President Perna asked members to stand for a moment of silence of our departed comrades and to recite the pledge of allegiance to our flag. Secretary Dan Quinn then read the minutes of the last meeting held in Houston, Texas and upon a motion made by Martin Gross and seconded by Len Tomassone it was voted to accept the reading of the minutes.

Perna thanked Jack Blann for the report on the Houston Reunion which due to many misjudgements led to a deficient financial return – low attendance and cancellations resulting in a loss to those attending the reunion. Another appeal will be made through the publication-the Octofoil.

President Perna thanked Blann for his report. It was voted by the members to have the secretary send the check covering the amount owed to the Adam Bark Hotel in Houston, Texas.

Over \$3500.00 was donated by members attending the Houston Reunion in a response of Chairman Jack Blann.

Perna spoke about the reunion in 2002 and the details will be published in the Octofoil being put together as of this date. President Perna made a donation of \$3000.00 for next years reunion being held in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

The next order of business was the naming of replacement for the Treasurer Tom Boyle who passed away the week before the meeting held in Worcester. Joe Killen was elected to replace Boyle.

There being no other business to come before this meeting and upon motion made by Len Tomassone and seconded by Joe Killen, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Quinn
National Secretary

47th Inf. B Co.
ALBERT FEDER

I enclose my check covering association dues for three years. The "Octofoil" is wonderful to read as it brings back memories of a momentous time.

My experience in the 9th Division began as a replacement during the Normandy campaign and lasted all through five campaigns ending with meeting the Russians at the Mulde River. I remember well our days in the Huetben Forest and during the Bulge at Monchau. All of these times I remember Sgts. Bob Hamilton and Ben Rienzi looking after a green 18 year old, helping him to survive.

Recently through the Octofoil, I've talked and written to Dennis Canady who in turn led me to speak to my former C.O. Capt. Bill Klauz (since deceased) and now Colonel Orin Shockly. Both treated me courteously and kindly as we talked over old times.

I was proud to serve in the Ninth Division and remember the names of John Zych, Leon Faris, Sgt. Cooper, Barney Fisher, Lt. Wilcox, Frenchy the Medic, and the Messhoff twins.

Although wounded twice I want to thank all these guys and others who cared about each other and helped us survive.

My wife and I currently live in an adult community and are both active in community affairs. Anyone who wants to keep in touch please don't hesitate to do so.

39th Inf. M. Co.
CHARLES BECKER

I should be ashamed – and I am – for not paying my dues for so long again. In spite of this omission the "Octofoil" has been sent and I thank you for keeping me in the group.

My good friend Artie Clark and I have been buddies since Fort Dix. After, of course, it was on to "Bragg" where we both made it to M. Co. 39th Inf. where we both made Sgt. in the first platoon. You know the path we took afterwards. I took a small hit in Tanesca but rejoined the outfit before Sicily. Unfortunately, I took a bigger hit in Cherborg which did me in for over a year. He went on and made it to the end, still a sergeant but earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star!

Although we live in different parts of Florida he's still my buddy and we see each other. Every man should have at least one friend like that.

Thanks again for not forgetting me.

PIGEON FORGE IS WAITING FOR THE 9TH

Pigeon Forge is nestled in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. It is a small town big on excitement. There are 6 outlet malls with more than 200 stores.

It is the home of Dollywood with live music, rides, and charming arts and crafts stores. There are many theaters featuring live entertainment. The town of Gatlinburg is adjacent for antique shopping. The scenery of the Smoky Mountains is beautiful. Its a FUN PLACE.

Our reunion will be held at the Country Inn and Suites of the Smoky Mountain Resorts on May 7th, 8th, 9th. Details are on page 2.

Peter Radichio, Chairman and his committee have been working hard to assure a successful, smooth running event. Get your reservations to the hotel by April 6th to guarantee the \$49.00 rate. Late reservations will be subject to availability and price increase.

Strip tickets are \$80.00 per person.
Make payable to: 9th Infantry Division Association-2002 Reunion.

Mail to: Richard Baudouy, 515 Oakcrest St., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714.

Come and sample Southern Hospitality, 9th Division style.

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 4/07/02 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
ATTN: SUSAN PADGETT
P.O. BOX 648
PIGEON FORGE, TN 37868-0648
1-877-767-6338
FAX # 865-908-1046

Details of Pigeon Force Reunion on Page 2 of Octofoil (see attached). Reservation form as per last issue with 2 changes.

To All Those Who Attended The 2001 Reunion in Houston:

I wrote you a few months ago to tell you of the shortage of funds for The 2001 Reunion. I am pleased to report that most of you have responded and have mailed the association the \$40/person that I suggested. However, it has come to my attention that many people thought that I meant that \$40/couple would make up the deficit. Actually we needed \$40 from each person who attended, or, \$80/couple.

The association has paid the bills, but we would like to replace the money in the treasury to prevent a deficit from the reunion. If you misunderstood, or still have not sent your \$40, your association needs the money and would be grateful for any amount you could send.

I thank all of you who responded so generously. You are a wonderful group.

Jack R. Blann
General Chairman
2001 Annual Reunion

TO SHARE...

Would that you could share with me the memories that arise in mind –

Memories of Ninth G.I.'s – all of a noble kind

At this moment sea waves vault as they near the shore, Fully aware they will wait and rant no more!

Good reason, I believe, for their days are at an end, And, leaving behind, it's sure they leave some friends,

Yet, they do appear content, as quietly on the shore they come to rest,

Fully appreciative of lives that have been the best!

Joe Rappazini

Co. "M" 60th Inf.
W.C. HORNADY

My membership dues expire this year, so I am enclosing a check for 3 more years.

Hope this finds you and yours well. I had shoulder surgery this past May but am doing o.k. Still limited to what I can do with my left arm.

Keep up the good work Dan, with the Octofoil. You are still doing a super job with it. We all appreciate you for what you are doing.

I would like to say hello to all my "M" Co. buddies.

Volume XLXXII Number 4, 2002 Aug, Sept, Oct

THE OCTOFOIL

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to:
412 Gregory Avenue Weehawken, N.J. 07087
Octofoil Association Editors
Joseph Killen and 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

Joe Killen, Treasurer

Daniel Quinn, Secretary

W

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. Jan-Feb., Mar-April, May-June-July, Aug-Sept-Oct, Nov-Dec. 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 reads: "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."

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The Octofoil

Publication #402820

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn. 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name.....Serial No.....

Street Address.....

I was a member of:

Battery.....Company.....Regiment.....9th Div.....

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year.....\$10.00

Sustaining Member.....

Donation Memorial.....

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

Life Membership.....\$75.00

Ladies Auxilliary Member.....\$300

Decals.....50-each

Philly-Delaware Valley

Illinois

New England

Florida

Texas C & South West

Greater New York

Washington, D.C.

Michigan

New Jersey

California Chapter

We are on the internet!

The young men from Pendleton, Indiana (William T. Ripley and others) have established a web site:

<http://oldreliable9-47.tripod.com> and they are putting pictures and other memorabilia on it. Anyone of the old gang who has anything to give them should send "stuff" to Wm. T. Ripley, 1

I have gone to see their site several times and think it's great to have our regiment so well pictured. I am sending pictures I have and urge others to do the same.

Ripley has a web site too. It is:

I hope you and others get the same kick out of this that I do!

Kindest regards.

JAMES E. LEOPOLD

Company F. 60th Inf.

DONALD E. CRASS

I am sending you a copy of a letter I received from Mr. Ervin Hill. His fathers brother was killed on Feb. 9, 1945 while Company F. of the 60th was taking the Schwammanuel Dam.

I loaned him the 60th Inf. book (Follow Thru) plus my history of my time with the 9th Div.

I thought by chance you could print it in the Octofoil.

EVIN HILL

Dear Mr. Crass,
I am finally getting around to returning your book. This time of year it takes awhile for me to get caught up on things. I really appreciate the loan of this book. This has helped a great deal in understanding what happened on that one day in particular. Thank you for trusting a complete stranger, not many are willing to do things like this in this day and age.

I was especially intrigued with the day by day descriptions not only in the book but also of your own writing. I trust that you have passed your story on to some of the publications that use first hand accounts. I am an associate member of the VBOB and I always enjoy the stories and accounts that come from the ones that were there. I understand why some vets will not talk about what happened but it is truly a shame that the current and following generations will not have this kind of first hand information. I regret that I did not do this 25 years ago.

I have photocopied the book and your account and will forward copies to my father who I am sure is waiting for it. I told him what I had and that I would get it to him soon. All of this information has been a revelation to him, as he had no idea what happened to his brother over there. Now at least he has the knowledge of the situation and how hard it was for his brother. I was only three years old when he was killed (he was buried on my birthday) so I did not know him. But I'm sure that he did what he had to do, to the best that he could do it. As a rifleman, you didn't make it from France to Germany if you were a screw up. After all the information that I have gone through it is still hard to imagine the physical punishment that you men went through even without fighting for your lives at the same time.

Again, I sincerely thank you for the information and the help in understanding the situation as it was.

Continued from Page 1

STRIP TICKETS

Please send form and check as soon as possible so the committee can finalize their plans.

\$80 Strip Tickets will include:

Tuesday - Welcome Reception with ice cream and cake
Wednesday - Dinner and Shows at Dixie Stampede Dinner Theater

Thursday - Banquet and Entertainment

A Continental Breakfast will be served each morning.

Pigeon Forge is a dry town but you may bring alcohol and/or beer purchased elsewhere.

Make checks payable to: 9th Infantry Division 2002 Reunion. Cost is: \$80 per person. Mail to: Richard Baudouy, 515 Oakcrest St., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714.

Enclose Form:

Name of Member			
Address			
	Street		
	City	State	Zip
Phone Number			
Company	Battalion		
Regiment	Unit		
Wife/Guest's Name			
Strip Ticket	Amount Enclosed		

Directions - Nearest airport is Knoxville, TN.

When Driving: From Interstate 40, Exit 407, South on Hwy. 66 to Hwy. 441 into Pigeon Forge - then one block East on Sharon Road, behind Country Kitchen Restaurant/
A 25¢ trolley will take us all over town.

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).

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP
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x (1) HAS NOT CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS

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AVERAGE NO. COPIES EACH ISSUE DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS

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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Daniel Quinn

Taps Sounded



A FAREWELL TO OUR TREASURER, TOM BOYLE

On October 13th our Treasurer of more than forty years standing passed on to his eternal reward in much the same manner that he lived his life, quietly and without fanfare. Tom Boyle was always closed-mouthed about his family and their business. He rarely spoke of his wife, Hilda, his sons, Tom Junior and Paul, or of his daughter, Donna, and the two grandsons, Ryan and Matthew.

Tom was with the Ninth Infantry Division from the first days in North Africa as a forward observer for Battery C of the 26th Field Artillery Bn. and he was with them when the war ended. He never boasted of his own deeds; so you will have to read the citation to find out the where and the why Tom Boyle was awarded the Silver Star Medal. A few months after his discharge from the Army, Tom joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars, became a life member and rose to be Post Commander of the James A. Logan Post 6800; another fact that he saw no need to mention.

In our Ninth Infantry Division Association and after he took on the job as Treasurer, he found time to serve as National President in 1983, and to be the chairman of more than a few national reunions. After the demise of Father Connors, Tom became the key organizer to keep the Worcester Memorials going strong. "I'm only doing what I can to keep the organization together."

Tom Boyle was a very effective speaker, a pleasure to hear, and his favorite subject was the Ninth Infantry Division. Tom was in his glory at the lectern, or up on the pulpit, telling us how good we were, and reminding us of the high price in human lives that we had to pay for our victories. Tom never used a written speech; he always spoke straight from his heart. Another talent that Tom Boyle down-played was his way with words.

Now, he has gone to join the ranks of those men that he always spoke about as they march on into eternity. Let us salute Tom Boyle and say, "Farewell old buddy, you will not be forgotten in our lifetime, for you did one heck of a job."

We thank the Lord for letting us have the pleasure of Tom Boyle's company for as long as we did.

Joe Killen, G-47

★★★ GOD BLESS AMERICA ★★★

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:

Edward McNamara - In memory of Doris Burns, wife of Sam Burns; Donald Dale and Eugene Mitchell, F Co. 39 Inf.
 Ted Curless - In memory of Walter O'Keefe and all the men of E Co. 47 Inf.
 Paul Giaraputo - In memory of Walter O'Keefe, Art Schmidt and Mrs. Otto Geyer.
 Robert Mandle - In memory of Art Schmidt.
 Gordon Anderson - In memory of Walter Fatt, 9th Recon Troops.
 Eugene Wagner - In memory of Art Schmidt.
 Dean Lewis - In memory of Ronald Bradley, Robert Catus, and Bernard Morey all of AT 47th Inf.
 Jack Collier - In memory of Stan Pollinger.
 Dolores Bauman - In memory of Austin Fritsch.
 William Muldoon - In memory of Sgt. Quigley, L Co. 47 Inf.
 Joseph Killen - In memory of the "Dads" of 47th KIA.
 Leo Fatlan - In memory of Walter O'Keefe, 47th Inf; Ken Creighton and Lyle Kitchen, both M Co. 47 Inf.
 J.D. Whiteley
 Charles McLhinney - In memory of Walter O'Keefe and Tom Boyle.
 John Bonkowsk - In memory of Tom Boyle, Fran Maher, Walter O'Keefe and Art Schmidt.
 Al Perna - Memory of all who served in 9th Div.
 John Compel
 William Ribka - In memory of Joe Lesko, Hq Btry 84 FA BN.
 Michigan Chapter - In memory of Tom Boyle.
 Michigan Chapter - In memory of Stanley Gutek, brother-in-law of Don Lewis, B Co. 47th Inf.

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
 Reliablys."**

Charles Yenser
 39 Inf. C Co.

Joseph Elfman
 K Co. 60 Inf.

Edward "Beetle" Foran
 39th Inf.

Holt Rast
 15 Engr.

Eugene Clark

Olivia Wessmiller
 Wife of John Wessmiller,
 Col. U.S. Army Ret'd.

Kazmar Drobnicki

Harold Deardorf
 47 Inf. E Co.

Ed Perry
 39th Inf.

Thomas Boyle
 Treas. 9th Div. Assn., 26th
 FA

William Cooney
 Div Arty.

Joseph Lesko
 A Btry 60th F.A.

**Call out our names
 as the years go by-
 Remember us-
 and we will never die.**

47 Inf Co. 4
 ELMER WAGNER

First of all I'd like to thank Jack Blann and the Texas/Southwest Chapter for the great reunion in Houston. Unfortunately, the declining attendance is what we will see in the remaining reunions of our association.

During the past 24 years I have sold many 9th Division license plates and baseball caps. I sold my last ones this past winter and will not reorder them anymore because the customer base is dying rapidly.

Enclosed is a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Art Schmidt. He was my assigned roommate on the European tour following the 25th anniversary reunion in New York in 1970. During our stop in Schevenhuetten, Art showed me the spot near the village church where he got hit and lost his leg. I'm sure that all who were on that tour will remember it as a once-in-a-lifetime experience, including that 12 hour train ride from Munich to Utrecht, Holland due to the travel agency.

Over the years I've revisited the Huertgen Forest and Ramagen areas numerous times. Such towns like Zupen, Elseborn, Monschan, Kolterherberg and Einruhr are beautiful tourist places now.

I plan on being at the Pigeon Forge reunion next May.

WWII hero buried at National cemetery

Saratoga — Peter Dalessandro is 1st Medal of Honor recipient at Saratoga burial ground.

By Mike Hurewitz
 Staff Writer

He never talked to his family about wanting to be buried in Saratoga National Cemetery. After his near-miraculous survival in World War II, he put on the facade at least that he would live forever.

But old soldiers do die, and Medal of Honor recipient Peter Dalessandro lost his final battle on Oct. 15, 1997, at age 78.

Friday, he became the first Medal of Honor winner to be buried at the nation's newest national cemetery.

"He never thought he was going to die, and we never discussed it," said one of his two daughters, Maribeth D'Alessandro of Albany, adding there was one telling exception.

Invited to the inauguration of President Clinton, as he was to almost all the Presidents since Eisenhower, he was staying in a hotel in Arlington, Va., with a view of that most famous of national cemeteries.

"We were looking out the window," Maribeth recalled, and he said, "I don't want to be buried there."

When the family talked about it after his death they guessed he felt it was too far from home.

His family had waited until Friday with the ache of something unfinished. But when the sounds of the 21-gun salute — officially reserved only for Presidents and the nation's top military honorees — echoed over the panorama of cornfields and hills of the nation's newest veterans burial ground, they had found closure.

"I'm glad we waited for this cemetery," Patricia said quietly.

"He had the 21-gun salute he always wanted," said his daughter Bernadette Ellis, who lives with Patricia in Loudonville. "It's nice to be able to finally put him to rest."

Dalessandro's cremated ashes had been preserved at the Parker Brothers Funeral Home in Watervliet since his death.

"No one more epitomized what military service is, of willingness to give one's life not simply for his country, but for his comrades in arms," said Albany County Executive Mike Breslin, a West Point graduate and veteran of the Vietnam War, speaking privately after the brief religious ceremony.

Some 125 were on hand to witness the ceremony, including former Selkirk resident and Medal of Honor recipient Frank Curry, uniformed members of the various veterans service organizations and almost a dozen dignitaries. Among them was former Rep. Gerald Solomon of Queensbury, the moving force behind creation of the cemetery.

They saluted and family members wiped away tears as a contingent of seven uniformed riflemen from a Fort Drum Honor Guard fired three volleys and the sound of taps rolled over the crowd gathered near the Columbaria Wall.

They were paying homage in particular to Dalessandro's deeds of Dec. 22, 1944, at a road junction near Kalterherberg, Germany, during the Battle of the Bulge.

Technical Sgt. Dalessandro and his platoon from Company E of the 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division came under intense fire and were surrounded. With his men pinned down, Dalessandro stood in the line of fire to give his unit a chance to retreat to a second line of defense.

He gunned down four German troopers about to kill a medic and two wounded soldiers in a nearby foxhole. Wounded in the exchange of fire, he kept hurling grenades and calling in mortar rounds on his position until he was captured and held prisoner for a year. He escaped, was caught, beaten and returned to camp.

For this and other combat acts he received, in addition to the Medal of Honor, three Purple Hearts, two Silver Stars and one Bronze Star. The French government awarded him its highest honor, the Croix de Guerre.

In 1946 was elected to the state Senate, where he served until 1957 when he became secretary to the senate minority leader. He retired from public office in October 1977.

A heart attack triggered by a long bout with diabetes finally accomplished what German bullets failed to do.

"It is fitting that we finally are burying Peter here, so close to home in a magnificent new national cemetery," Breslin said.

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

FLORIDA CHAPTER

THE PREP WORK HAS BEEN DONE.... NOW.....LET'S HAVE SOME FUN....

The fun begins when you arrive at the beautiful Hilton Airport Hotel in Melbourne on November 14, 2001. Go to the HOSPITALITY ROOM to greet and share the camaraderie with friends while having a snack and a drink.

The ladies will have an opportunity to see Melbourne with its many fine restaurants, interesting landmarks, attractive sights and many shopping Centers. Yes...the Reunion Committee worked very hard in getting the PREP WORK done...now set aside November 14, 15, 16 and 17 and come!

THE PROGRAM AGENDA

Friday, November 16th: A 5 Hour Sterling Casino Day Cruise. WE leave the Hotel by 9:30 a.m. using our own vehicles to make the hour plus trip to Cape Canaveral. Follow the directions that are printed on the bottom of the ORDER FORM. Cut and retain this portion of the sheet before you send in your check together with your filled in form.

Saturday, November 17th: Men's Business and Women's Auxiliary Meetings at 10:00 a.m. Free time for everyone from after the meetings until Banquet Time.

***Saturday Evening Banquet at 6:30 p.m.:** A 16 oz. Rialto Grilled Rib-Eye steak topped with sauteed Portabella Mushrooms and Boursin Cheese will be served in one of the Hotel's Dining Rooms. (Jackets & ties preferred). Following the dinner, recording artist Andy Anderson will put on a live performance which includes Karaoke and video.

*Hotel required a minimum 100 Dinner Orders for two or more entrees

Sunday, November 18th: Depart for home. Because of the length of this reunion, there will be no corporate breakfast this year.

Please remember to pack your name tags in your suitcase now!

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FLORIDA CHAPTER REUNION: Because of the September 11 terrorist's attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the Pennsylvania plane crash, the Space Center tour scheduled for Thursday, November 15th was cancelled by NASA. In keeping with President Bush's directive to continue with our normal lives, the Florida Chapter Reunion Committee decided to go ahead with its plans to hold their reunion for 3 days instead of 4. Plans are being made to honor those who perished on September 11th and also our war dead.

ROSTER UPDATE

Please make the following changes on your Membership Roster: **Wallace "Wally" Richardson:** Moved. New address:

Jean Richards: Moved to

Joseph Eska: Moved to

Clark F. Grodevant: because he cannot attend any of our Chapter Reunions, Clark requested to be removed from our Membership Roster.

MAIL FROM OUR MEMBERS

Louis Vivolo: Louis and his wife regret not being able to attend our Chapter Reunion this year. The Vivolos live in Revere, Mass. and spent previous winters in Florida. Louis sent in his 3 years dues.

Carlos Esteve: Carlos sent in his 3 years dues together with a note stating that he had a 4 way by pass. Because of his health reasons, we regret that he and his wife Teresa, who make their home in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, will not be able to attend our reunion.

Wm. H. Mc Donald: Bill wrote saying that he cannot make this year's reunion but is planning on coming next year. Bill is restricted to a motorized wheelchair but says that won't hold him back. His address is 113 Gordon Drive, Seminole, FL 33773, Phone 727/398-3453. Bill would welcome to hear from any one of his fellow members.

Walter Clark: A phone call from Walter's son requesting an ORDER FORM stating that they were planning on attending our reunion.

Placid Tamporello: Thank you for your Chapter dues. Placid and Vauda live in Metairie, Louisiana. Placid had dinner with Phil and Barbara Berman, Emil and Audrey De Donato during the 1995 National Reunion in New Orleans.

Pat "Leo" Williamson: Pat wrote saying that chances of his attending any Florida Chapter reunions are slim but he will make every effort to attend National Reunions. Pat lives in Hickory, NC near his family.

Nelson Rice: Nelson is a 9th Infantry Division veteran and a member of the National Association. he and his wife requested an ORDER FORM to attend our reunion. Hopefully they will attend so that we can meet them and perhaps recruit a new member to our Florida Chapter.

Our Chapter Treasurer Richard Baudouy wishes to acknowledge receiving dues from Raymond Miller, Charles Maravel, John De Graff, and Maxwell Katz. Hopefully, we will see some of you at the reunion. Other members who sent dues will be acknowledged by Richard Baudouy immediately.

DEATH NOTICES

Rose Cooney: In less than 3 months after the death of her husband, William, who passed away on June 23, 2001, Rose Cooney died on September 4th at her home in Ormond Beach. Rose was an Air Force veteran. She was born in Purchase, New York. She moved to Ormond Beach from White Plains, New York where she graduated from White Plains High School in 1950. Rose and husband Bill attended numerous Chapter Reunions.

Virginia Driscoll: Age 78, died on Friday, October 5, 2001 at Community Hospital in Holmdel, NJ. She was a library Technician with the Matavan-Aberdeen High School District and a member of the New Jersey Education Association. She was predeceased by her husband Jimmy who passed away on October 13, 1999. The Driscolls lived in Holiday, Florida for over 10 years before selling their home and moving back to New Jersey. They attended many Chapter and National reunions. Surviving are a son, James; two daughters, Virginia and Loretta Driscoll and two grandchildren.

WOMEN AUXILIARY NEWS

Bertha Carson: Bertha wrote saying that is' very cold in Whiting, NJ. The leaves are turning brown, falling off the trees and she misses Florida. Bertha is planning to go to Pigeon Forge for the National Reunion in 2002 where she will get together with her Melbourne friends, Norris and Dorothy Gray and many other Florida Chapter members.

Lila Stansell: Plans to attend the National Board of Governors Meeting and the Annual Mass Services in Worcester, Massachusetts were cancelled by H.F. and Lila Stansell due to the September 11 terrorist attack on New York. However, they are looking forward to going to Pigeon Forge for the National Reunion.

order form

☐ 1 Person ☐ 2 Persons ☐ 3 or more ☐ Smoking ☐ Non-Smoking
☐ Queen Size ☐ Twin Beds ☐ King Size ☐ Handicapped (if available)

Your name: _____ Phone No. _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

— Nights lodging @ \$61.00 per night..... \$ _____

— Person (s) Friday - 5 Hour Casino Cruise Ship.... No Charge

— Person (s) Saturday Night Banquet @ \$27.50 each.....Rialto Rib-Eye Steak with all the trimmings, a salad, rolls, coffee or tea and a dessert. (Because we could not meet the Hotel's requirement of 100 or more dinners, we were restricted to only one entree).

A 19% gratuity is included in the price of the dinner.

Donations of \$5.00, \$10.00 or more for the HOSPITALITY ROOM and ENTERTAINMENT costs will be cheerfully accepted.

Total amount of check. \$ _____

Cancellations will be honored if made before November 10, 2001. Contact Chuck Van Der Poel at 904/724-3633.

Please send your completed ORDER FORM together with your check made out to the FL Chapt. 9th Inf. Div. Assn. to Chuck Van Der Poel, 2005 Elaina Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32216.

Cut along the broken line and retain the bottom portion. Follow directions on map to the Hotel. Reminder: Bring your name tags as it saves time & money.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Dear Comrades of the Ninth:

Due to the fact that both the chaplain, Barney Tobacco, and yours truly, the secretary of the Michigan Chapter were hospitalized in May, the usual time of our annual memorial service, we combined the memorial with our August picnic. We gathered at the lovely home of the Arthur Doerings. We enjoyed a delicious meal and the joy of once again being together. For the memorial, the Doerings had decorated a huge stump on the grounds with flowers and the American flag. Because our chaplain was still not able to attend, I did the honors with a prayer written many years ago by the Rev. Ralton Spears, formerly of the 60th. We had a tape of taps which was recorded by our youngest son, Bill, an Eagle Scout.

Members present were: Roger Alsgaard, John Bonkowski, Art Doering, Tom Hatton, Dick Irwin, Clyde LaBrenz, Billie Martin, Paul Prymack, Tom Saunders, Elmer Wagner, and Edwin Wisniewski. Most of the wives of the members and many widows of deceased members.

We had four deaths from the Michigan area this past year: Paul Keller, Robert Lee, John Maule, and Edwin Smith.

We are preparing for the trip to Angola, Indiana and our annual get-together with the Illinois Chapter on the 16th and 17th of October. We will have the details in the next news letter.

It is my sad duty to report the passing of Manley Martell, a former 9th member, 4 years in Service Company, 47th Infantry. We started out in basic and stayed together until the end. Also, the passing of Stanley Gutek, brother-in-law of Don Lewis, a former 9th member, who attended many reunions and Michigan Chapter outings — a true gentleman.

Yours in comradeship,
Edwin Wisniewski
Secretary, Michigan Chapter

60 F.A.
JACK CHAGNON

I enjoyed chatting with you this afternoon, and appreciate your taking the time to talk to me.

As I mentioned during our conversation, I'm looking for a Battalion Crest of the 60 FA Bn. I served with the 60th during the mid 50's in Heillronn, Germany and subsequently at Ft. Laron, Co.

If you can help me locate this crest I will be most grateful to you.

Co. F 60th Inf.
JOHN W. MILLER

The 9th Infantry Division was always known to be a great division. We were blessed with a great division commander M/Gen. Eddy — and great battalion and company commanders.

When the division was activated in October 1940 at Fort Bragg, N.C. a fine group of old regular army NCOs formed the cadre. Even the recruits that entered the service in Jan. 1941 had no love for the cadre, they had a job to do and did it well. It wasn't long before many of the draftees were wearing stripes, S/Sgt McQuire was the first to become Platoon Sgt of the Zd Platoon. Gus Pappas was the first to leave for OCS followed by Geo Pedrick. Many others followed.

The Eight Stars to Victory tells the history of the 9th Div.

After the war the first reunion was held in the Hotel New Yorker — over twenty-five hundred attended. I was fortunate enough to attend. It was one grand celebration. There wasn't a sober veteran for the three day reunion.

Over the period of the next 55 years I attended the reunions whenever possible, I missed a lot because I stayed in the army for another 21 years, of which 10 years was overseas.

It was always a great thrill when attending the reunions to meet old members of Co. F 60th where I started out as a private. At one reunion 29 members attended, at the 48th reunion at San Antonio which I was chairman 19 members attended to include our Company Commander Capt. Robert L. Kriz and Bn. C.O. Mike Kauffman.

Now in our senior citizens years at the 56th reunion only six attended, Ed Pavlick, George Arnold, Tom Saunders, Cliff Painter, Tony Wratney and myself. Ed Pavlick, Geo Arnold and I made the invasion of N. Africa, Nov. 8, 1942.

During the years leading up to the 56th reunion we had some great reunions, the 56th reunion will go down in history as one of the best.

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

THE NY AREA CHAPTER

By the time this NY Area report appears in the Octofoil – the summer hiatus from chapter meetings will have been a memory. We hope all Ninthmen had an enjoyable summer.

World Trade Center Attack

The events of September 11 were shattering and our country found itself at war again – against maniacal foreign terrorists. Our command post for the September 21st meeting at the 69th Regt Armory, 25th St. and Lexington Ave., NYC, was put on hold because the armory was pressed into service as a center for the heart-rending task of accommodating desperate relatives and friends with pictures and descriptions, trying to locate or identify thousands of their loved ones lost in the horrendous World Trade Center tragedy.

By October the armory had made a room available for our next meeting, but the evening meeting date was too difficult for many members to attend because of restricted tunnel approaches to NYC from NJ, and the following-day drive up to Massachusetts for the Annual Worcester Memorial weekend. Our next scheduled meeting will be at the armory on November 16. (Prez Joe Killen latest info is that the National Guard is now bivouacked in the armory, and Bill Harris reported that the VA Hospital on 23rd street might be able to offer a meeting room for us). Who knows – maybe we'll return to Masonic Hall.

Friar Tuck Mini-reunion

The NY Area mini-reunion took place at Friar Tuck Resort Hotel again this year, September 10-14. Attending Secretary-Treasurer Al Zenka reports the following: "We enjoyed getting together again but when we entered the lobby after breakfast we were horrified and unbelieving seeing the events of 9/11/01 unfolding before our eyes on TV, which cast a pall during the rest of the get-together."

Attending Friar Tuck were: Ruth & John Lannon, Benny Murell, Al & Vicki Cook, Sabetino & Virginia Agostinelli, Al & Bobby Lubrano, Charlie & Esta LiBretto, Marty & Irene Gross, Charles & Frances Bielewicz, Joseph Gravino, Al Baccile & son Nicholas, Frank Hodek & Anne Roseto, Frank & Edith Graziani, Adolph Wadalavage, Al & Genevieve Zenka and 9 of their friends.

(Reflections of this scribe notes the 9th Infantry Division with millions of other brothers in arms during World War II faced determined armies on world conquest and defeated them – on foreign soil. Our country now faces a new threat – a handful of foreign terrorists that are suicidal and bent on havoc and destruction of our institutions on our own land. We hope our country and its leaders, armed forces and Allies are up to the task of this new threat to America – and will be victorious).

On Sick Call

The Chapter has received some correspondence with dues payments and some of our comrades have noted that they are not well and would appreciate hearing from their old buddies: Charles Warner and N. Androvich. Also, under the weather: Adolph Wadalavage, Al Lipton, Dan Quinn and Herminio Suarez. Tony Varone and his wife Viola and daughter Michelle who just had a gall bladder removal. Charlie LiBretto's wife Esta, to have an arterial stint procedure, and son John, director at NBC, being treated for anthrax exposure. Joe Maiale also had an arterial stint procedure recently. Joe Rzesniowiecki had a cancerous tumor removed from his esophagus and a gall bladder removal. Carl Winter is recuperating from his third bladder cancer operation. Gerry Levinson is unable to move. These Ninthmen and ladies would appreciate your expression of well wishes.

Attention NY Area 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, 9th Inf Div Assn and send to Al Zenka, Secretary-Treasurer, [redacted]

Marv Levy
Co A 60th
[redacted]

FYI Regards Dave

William H. Maloney, Jr.
[redacted]

Dear Bill,

Sorry for the delay in reporting to you on the outcome of the Spey resolution.

Unfortunately, when I came back from Houston I had to go on sick call for a couple of weeks. As you have probably already heard, the resolution was presented at the General Meeting of the Reunion on May 18, and passed unanimously. On May 31, I sent a copy to Commander Brown with a request (copy enclosed) that he transmit it to the appropriate recipients. I have not yet had a response from him but I have no doubt he will take care of this.

Since I do not have the addresses of all the seventeen men of the 2nd Battalion of the 39th Infantry who are mentioned in the resolution, I am enclosing sufficient copies so that you can send them on to them if you wish to do so.

Sincerely yours,
David H. Heller
Judge Advocate

"THE OCTOFOIL"

Shoulder sleeve insignia became official for all units after the first world war and in 1923, the Ninth Infantry Division – with War Department approval – adopted the Octofoil as its patch. The selection was a unique one, as the design dated back to the 15th Century, when it was customary for each son to have an individual mark of distinction.

Perhaps Octo, meaning eight, is a bit confusing to many when speaking of the Ninth Division. But in foiling there are eight foils (positions) and heraldic rules gave the Octofoil to the ninth son, since it was symbolic of his being surrounded by eight brothers; which is an explanation of why this eight-petaled insignia is correct for the Ninth Regular Army Division.

The design chosen for the Ninth consists of a red quatre-foil atop a blue quatre-foil, with a white center. The red stands for the artillery, the blue for the infantry and the white denotes the color of numerals found on division flags. Surrounding the Octofoil is a rim of olive drab – symbolic of the United States Army.

84th FA Reports

I apologize if this report is too late to make the next issue of the Octofoil. I owe my apologies for failing to report attendees at the 56th Annual Reunion from the 84th Field Artillery Battalion; Pete Rice, Texas; Virginia and George Reutschi, Florida; and Alice Haines. We all enjoyed what we agreed was one of the finest reunions we had ever attended. The Texas Chapter headed by Jack Blann, his efficient officers, members and families demonstrate what a coordinated, dedicated group can produce for a super-reunion.

Among the missing from the 84th FA folk were Bill Rybka and Laryce who was taken ill shortly before they were scheduled to leave for Houston. The 84th FA attendance plaque which turned up missing has since been located in possession of the Rybka's who guarantee to make it available in May at Smoky Mountain Resorts, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

I talked with Sam Robinson, Battery C, 84th, in Swampscott, Mass. while visiting our son in nearby Topsfield in March, who sent his regards to all the "Performance Above All" gang with whom he served for many months. We hope that reunion attendance will be better in 2002.

We send our best regards to members of the secretariat in Weehawken.

Cordially,
Frank and Alice Haines

P.S. Please send me the address and telephone number of Mike Pelle who we selected and is listed as President of the N.J. Chapter.

SEEKING

TOM LUTZ
[redacted]

I finally was able to determine after a few years of searching that Charles Uczkuronis, a relative of mine was with the 15th Combat Engineers, Company B, 9th Infantry Division. His cousin was kind enough to have a veterans market placed on his grave in Uxbridge, MA.

I recall his being drafted and recall the day he returned from Europe sometime after VE Day.

I had sent the following to Audrey Bruner, who had an E-Mail address in the "oldreliables" web site.

I have been trying to locate anyone who could provide me with any information on PFC or Pvt Charles Uczkuronis.

Charlie was born in USA in November 1912. He was with the 15th Combat Engineering Battalion, Company B, (and apparently would have been released on Dec. 8th, 1941, since he was 29 years old at that time ... but something happened on December 7th which delayed his release.)

He, like you, have served the whole of WW II with the 9th Infantry Division, North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, France, Belgium, "Battle of the Bulge," Germany.

He returned to the RI and CT area. He passed away in 1962.

If you can assist me, I would be most grateful.

PS. Also, if I could arrange to receive the 9th Infantry Division newsletter, I would be most grateful.

PPS. My service was with the USN 1952-56.

39th Inf. Cannon Co.
BURLEIGH BREWER
[redacted]

Enclosed find Burleigh Brewer dues for 3 years.

Time has a way of flying by, and it's easy to forget so soon. Sorry I'm late, but I do enjoy the Octofoil.

Just finished a Veterans Memorial Park here in Beavercreek, Ohio. It is truly beautiful and a wonderful tribute to all veterans.

84th FA C. Btry.
KENNETH THOMPSON
[redacted]

Would like to hear from past members of the "C" Battery 84th F.A.

9th M.P.
GEORGE VIX
[redacted]

Dues check enclosed, late as usual. Sorry to read in the latest Octofoil that Carmen Della Terza passed away. He was one of the old timers in the M.P. platoon.

Travel is out of the question for this year, but good luck and best wishes at the reunion. Say hello to Adolph Wadalavage. Just heard from him and I am sure he will be there. Several of the fellows have written since "Private Ryan," and it's always nice to hear how old friends are doing.

Thanks for keeping the association news coming. Great job.

SEEKING

CORY A. HEISE
[redacted]

It was just earlier today that I spoke with you on the phone, and what a pleasure it was to make contact with someone who might be able to help. You see, I called in reference to a book that (according to my father's recollection) chronicled the activities of the United States Army's 9th Infantry during WW II. While over home over Christmas, we discovered a letter that had your phone number on it as an association for that infantry.

My father, Gustav J. Heise, is 78 years old and living in Shelby Twp., MI – not far from his hometown of Detroit where he grew up. I am the youngest of five children and the last to learn and soak up my father's stories from WW II. While my mother might be tired of hearing him, I am eager to learn from his years in the 60th Regiment – the "Go Devils" – he said they were called. I've heard of his time in North Africa, Sicily, and beyond, and the heart-wrenching story of his younger brother (Arnold Heise) dying in his arms from a shell fragment to the head. A quiet man who might appear from the outside to have led an unremarkable life actually continues to make me amazingly proud with his recounts from his time in the war.

For years he has been mentioning this "book" that he once saw from another veteran and that he regrets not getting for himself. If there's one small, truly meaningful token I could give my father – in honor of all I've learned from him – it would be to find a copy of this 9th Infantry book. Obviously, he is the man he is due in no small part to the indelible mark his years in the war left on him, and I so want (just as he does) for his stories to live on. This book would mean the world to him and also assist in filling the gaps of his war years.

I would be forever grateful for any help you could give me in my efforts. Thank you for your time.

WILLIAM Y. PEREZ
[redacted]

I'm reading the May-June-July issue of the Octofoil, I noticed Bill? in writing to Dave? was seeking the address, of among others, Peter Delessandro. The enclosed article from the July 31, 1999 issue of the *Albany Times Union* will inform Bill and Dave of Peter's death and subsequent burial in the Saratoga National Cemetery.

Peter was indeed one of the many heroes of our 9th Infantry Division. After WW II, he served with distinction as a member of the New York State Senate.

Potshots and Other Observations From the Dugout

Good morning world, and thank you Lord for allowing me to enjoy the land of the free while I live in the home of the brave. The home of the brave is not an empty meaningless phrase; it is real and alive and practiced right here in these United States. I have pondered upon the events of this past month and I ask your indulgence while I try to explain the reasoning behind this essay.

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

On September 11th, those insane fanatics, directly and indirectly, caused an amount of people to perish that could have filled two regiments of World War II infantry; and they did it in the short space of a little more than one hundred minutes. Lives snuffed out in the blink of the eye.

No one can question the bravery of the New York City firefighters, the police, and the EMS people who answered the call and rushed into the World Trade Center buildings. They all entered with the expectations of returning safely when the job was done. Like the men who went in on the beaches of Safi, Port Lyautey, Aintaya, Gela, Utah, and Omaha, they were going in to do the job that they were trained to do and function as a well-knit team. A few returned alive, but most didn't make it. Those who perished and those still alive are beyond the doubt heroes in every sense of the word, and deserve all of the honors that their duty can give.

The FIRST AMERICAN HEROES of the 21st CENTURY

My candidates for this honor are people who wore no uniforms who were strangers to one another when they began the journey that would mark the end of their life; and who were not trained in any manner to do and act as they did. They were the passengers on the fourth plane that was hijacked. After the fanatics had shown their hand and took over the plane, the other passengers made cell-phone calls and learned of the Pentagon bombing and the fate of the WTC buildings and realized that theirs was a similar destiny. Vowing to act against these terrorists, these strangers came together and formed a combat team. If they could not gain control of the plane, at least they would take it down where it would do the least harm to their country. When the plane altered course and headed back East, and with full knowledge that they would not live, these untrained patriots acted and somehow caused this fourth plane which had become a guided missile to plunge into an isolated field in rural southeast Pennsylvania. With their last breath they knew that they had saved other American lives and property. We can only guess what the final destination of the hijackers was to be; but my heroes could have altered the course of world history by their unselfish action. We will probably never know in our lifetime.

It is quite possible that by their actions these fourth plane heroes have saved the government of our country, and thereby have saved the country. Whoever said, "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his country" must have had these people in mind when he said it. But, similar to the Ninth Infantry Division, these fourth plane heroes suffer from having very poor press relations and their deeds go unnoticed while the media has created all sorts of publicity hoop-la over the World Trade Center crash site in New York City.

There were no bodies to be removed at this fourth plane crash site as all of the crew, passengers and hijackers were cremated in the bomb crater and fire resulting from the crash. I would like to think that the spirits of these heroes have risen up to travel about one hundred miles or so East to another rural Pennsylvania location where 138 years ago a three day battle raged between Americans that resulted in 26,598 men being killed or missing; a place called Gettysburg.

President A. Lincoln delivered a well known short speech when he dedicated the cemetery at Gettysburg with the closing paragraphs still fitting and proper to use in remembering our fourth plane heroes; and something the terrorists have to learn. He said, "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Ordinary people like you and me, untrained in terrorist warfare, stood up and acted in their country's hour of need to do what they could against our enemies. They went "ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY" without hesitation and I feel that we owe them our gratitude and a huge MEDAL of HONOR for their sacrifice.

Thank you Lord for sending us such american patriots in our hour of need.

Sincerely,
Joe Killen, G-47

*** GOD BLESS AMERICA ***

60th Inf.
GEORGE H. GROSSMAN

Enclosed is an article that appeared in our local paper, *The Journal News*, Rockland County, NJ. I'd appreciate it if it could be printed in the next issue of the Octofoil so that veterans all over the U.S. can read it and write to their senators and congressmen. I have written to President Bush, Senator Clinton and Congressman Gilman. I also wrote to Anthony Principi requesting he tender his resignation. I am furious about his action.

In 1995 I was blessed with a stroke that affected my left side. I go to Helen Hayes Hospital for physical therapy. I also have vascular problems. When you reach 84 years of age, you can expect all kinds of problems. These golden years are tarnished. My wife has been at my side constantly. In fact, I turned all my medals over to her. She's earned them.

In spite of everything, we managed to get around for our 59th wedding anniversary this past April, our son gifted us with a trip to Hawaii.

I read the Octofoil from front to back. I have yet to see anything from members of Service Co. 60th.

I would love to attend a meeting of the N.Y. chapter, but it is difficult to drive to Manhattan. My thoughts are always with the 9th.

I hope you and your wife are in good health and are enjoying life to the fullest.

Do not take aim at the veterans

The U.S. secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, has come before the Senate to request an increase in the fees that veterans are charged for medication at VA facilities. His request will have a devastating effect on our veterans by raising their costs for medication by more than 350 percent.

I'm sure you are aware that we are losing our World War II veterans at the rate of more than 1,000 a day. Obviously, they are not being replaced by the small number of military personnel on duty today. Therefore, the overall burden on the Department of Veterans Affairs should be decreasing and the costs should be decreasing; however, the opposite is being seen.

I think it's unconscionable to put the extra cost of medication on the veterans who have come to the VA for help. Particularly those veterans who are in what we euphemistically refer to as their "golden years." We shouldn't be darkening their twilight. A half-century ago they stood up for us. it would be good if we returned the favor.

Jerry Donnellan
New City

The writer is Rockland's director
of veterans affairs.

Annual Commemorative Ceremony held in Barneville, France

MOST unfortunate the 56th Reunion in Houston and more important, that I could not be an "early bird" to make a posting on the "bulletin board!" The Division was remembered AGAIN by the people of BARNEVILLE-CARTERET on Monday, 18 June 2001.

Annually on the 18th of June a commemorative ceremony is held throughout France in remembrance of de Gaulle's 18 June 1940 radio message to the French nation of his coming return for the deliverance of France. This ceremony, co-incidentally, coincides with the day that the 9th Infantry Division in the form of K Company, 60th Infantry liberated the town of BARNEVILLE. Thus, since its dedication, the ceremony is held at the 9th Infantry Division memorial.



Of that commemorative ceremony a photograph is enclosed. I obtained it from LaPresse de la Manche newspaper office in Cherbourg. It appeared in the Wednesday, 20 June edition. It was accompanied by an article written by Jean-Philippe Gautier. It was based on the history of the town's liberation. I had, several years prior, sent copy from the Division history (pp 163-177). It was the basis for the article.

Later I would meet, for the first time, the Mayor (Marie), Claude DUPONT. (NOTE: His predecessor, M. Raymond LETERRIER, did not seek reelection. It was M. LETERRIER whom I first met Monday, 16 May 1983. The first time I saw the division memorial - but it reflected the 4th Infantry Division as the town's liberator. We met, unannounced. We had a long, long discussion on military history. He understood. He was MOST grateful for the information. On my next visit to BARNEVILLE, the memorial had been corrected. I'd sent photographs of both of those visits to the Division's Secretary and they were duly published.)

Claude DUPONT was most gracious in his reception. He thanked me again for having previously put the town in touch with Leo WILLIAMSON, whom they invited for the ceremony in 1994. All is well now in BARNEVILLE. All of the citizens are WELL versed on the history of the 9th Division as relates to its liberation. Thus does a grateful commune remember, annually.

I thought the membership would like to know. I've not long for this note, Mr. Quinn. On each trek to Normandy I take between 192 and 240 photographs. Upon my return, time permitting, I spend weeks writing letters and including photographs in gratitude for the reception given this 9th veteran. The Normans have NOT forgotten nor have their children nor will their grandchildren. The passing of the story of WW II's liberations is a never ending process. All 9th veterans can be proud of that. More of us should seek and continue that contact.

Ronald M.A. Hirst



1st Battalion Medical ,
Germany 1944

47th Infantry as shown in

Top Row left to right: Orris Schmidt, Ernie Sheir, Matthew Scott, George Brown, Joe Devereux, Ed McCaffery (in rear), Willie Wilkerson, Carson Baker, Hilton Ponthier, Dominic ("Spag") Spagnuolo, George Kovac. Lower Row left to right: Junior Knowles, Henry Goldstein, Capt. Gordon Binder, Joe Cipolla, Fong Hong, Porter. (Photo taken by Del McGann) Germany, Sept., 1944.

France Salutes It's Liberators!



Colonel Michael Warner, U.S. Marines, Ret. congratulates Woodrow C. Gardella after presentation of French Medal of Honor and French Certificate of Honor.

C Battery, 60th F.A. Bn
WOODROW C. GARDELLA

My letter concerning the awarding of the French Medal of Honor is available to all men of the 9th Infantry Division who participated in creating the freedom of the people of Normandy as well as those hitting the beach. The presentation is made every year on the anniversary of "D-Day."

Our local Freeholder's and the Veterans Administration were responsible in making the presentation possible. The medal and certificate are also presented to the widows and family of some of our comrades who are no longer with us.

60th Inf. Hqr 3 Bn
CHARLES J. WRIGHT

Enclosed please find a check for another year of dues. At 84 years old I don't even buy green bananas any more Ha Ha.

Am in good health. Play golf about three times a week. I just ordered Peter Mansoor's book. I will be glad when it gets here.

At Fort Bragg I was in M company 3 Bn. In Africa after the landing I transferred to Hdqs Co. 3. Made it all the way to the Elbe River.

Keep up the good work.

47th/NF
JOSEPH A. De FINI

Enclosed is check for three years dues.

I have not been able to make any of the meetings, nor any reunions for the past 5 years. Arthritis has rendered me a cripple.

I think of all my friends of the 9th Div. and wish I could see them again.

I enjoy reading the Octofoil.

I have enclosed a picture of me being congratulated by Colonel Michael L. Warner who presented all the medals and certificate of honor. He also made a very impressive speech.

I have made this information available to several other members of C Battery, 60th F A Bn, but I hope all the 9th Division members avail themselves of this opportunity. Incidentally, comrades of C Battery 60th F A Bn. SOUND OFF. I know your out there.

To you Mr. Daniel Quinn, I applaud your dedicated, successful direction of the Octofoil all these many years. I'm sure all the comrades feel as I do in congratulating you for your perseverance, personal sacrifice and effort on behalf of the members of the 9th Division Association.

SEEKING
RAY TOOHEY

My name is Ray Toohey and I have been trying to find someone who may have known my grandfather during WW II. He served in Company L, 60th Regiment, 9th Division. He was killed on 4/18/45. His name was Ray Toohey also. I have not been able to find anybody yet, but would be interested in hearing from those who have some recollection.

I got your names from a fellow from the 9th Infantry Division website who indicated that you may be able to include a search request for the next issue of Octofoil. How do I go about doing that? Any information that you could pass along would be appreciated.



Manton S. Eddy spearheaded Patton's Charge across Europe, only to be relegated to obscurity.

By Harold E. Raugh, Jr.

Major General Manton S. Eddy has never received the recognition he deserved for his leadership, professionalism, bravery and battlefield successes. As commander of the 9th Infantry Division and later the XII Corps, Eddy played an important but relatively unheralded role in the Allied victories in North Africa and Europe during World War II.

The purpose of Gerard Phillips' book, *The Making of a Professional: Manton S. Eddy, USA* (Greenwood Press, Westport, Conn., 2000, \$65), is to help rescue this forgotten American commander from the relative obscurity to which he has been relegated.

Born in 1892, Eddy joined the U.S. Army in 1916 and was commissioned an infantry second lieutenant two years later, after America's entry into World War I. Assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, Eddy (by then a captain) deployed to France in May 1918 and saw combat as a machine-gun company commander until wounded in action three months later. After recuperating, Eddy served as a battalion commander until the armistice in November. His interwar assignments were typical of most professional officers: student and instructor at the Infantry School; Reserve Officers Training Command (ROTC) duty; a two year posting to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and then assignment as a student and instructor at the Army Command and General Staff School.

It was during World War II that Eddy's leadership qualities became apparent. After service as a regimental commander in the 44th Infantry Division, he was promoted to brigadier general in March 1942 and assigned to the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. Only four months later, he received his second star and became the division's commander. During the invasion of North Africa in November 1942, Eddy commanded the Provisional Corps of the Western Task Force. Six weeks later, he rejoined the 9th, which was still consolidating when the Germans attacked Kasserine Pass in February 1943. Eddy helped restore the situation after the initial German breakthrough. The 9th next fought in Sicily, and, in November 1943, it redeployed to England to prepare for the invasion of France.

Its mission was to land on June 10 1944, and to serve as the VII Corps reserve. Eddy came ashore at Utah Beach on June 8, and shortly after his division landed, he relieved the faltering 90th Division. Eddy was then directed to cut off German forces in the Cherbourg Peninsula and to seize the vital port city. This was arguably Eddy's finest hour. He aggressively led his soldiers, effectively employed superior firepower and maneuvered his command through the difficult and deadly hedgerow country toward Cherbourg. In recognition of his leadership and heroism during the actions to seize the city, Eddy was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Eddy continued in command of the 9th until he was promoted to take charge of the XII Corps in August 1944. His new command frequently spearheaded the lightning advances of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army as it charged across Europe and crossed the Rhine. The pace of the advance, however, took a toll on the XII Corps' commander. With victory in sight, Eddy was diagnosed with life-threatening high blood pressure and was relieved by Patton less than three weeks before the end of the war in Europe.

Eddy's absence from the victory celebrations, according to Phillips, is one of the reasons that he has been forgotten. His military career, however, was not over. After a medical examination, Eddy was allowed to return to duty in 1946. He received his third star in 1947 and retired in 1953 after 37 years of service. Nine years after his retirement, Eddy passed away.

In his book, Phillips relies heavily on Eddy's diary and information provided by five of the general's wartime aides. While such half-century-old reminiscences are valuable, their credibility and accuracy need to be watched carefully. One other weakness is the author's extensive use of unattributed quoted dialogue.

Ben Kovacs - 3rd Bn 47th Inf sends this clipping from a magazine called Reviews.

Co. B, 60th Infantry
HARRY MARCINIAK



The January-February issue of Octofoil included an article by former C.O. of Co. B., 60th Infantry Grady Holman Jr., concerning the Dec. 12, 1944 action. Grady believes that he, John Cellar and Robert H. Fisher may be the only three from that action who are still alive.

I wish to inform him that I was there also, in the 3rd Platoon. Please print this information so others may come forth and we will know how many are still alive. Thank you.

Co. L. 47th I
JEROME SYPNIESKI



When you receive this letter it will be good by and joining my old buddies. God Bless the rest of you and be seeing you all.

Ex GI Jerry

Co. 2nd Bn 47th
LEWIS MANESS



I mentioned in the last Octofoil that my dues were overdue. Sorry about that., so enclosing a check to cover 3 years.

You continue to do an outstanding job with the Octofoil and as secretary of the association, I commend you for a job well done.

Warm regards and best wishes.

60th Inf. C. Co.
SULLIVAN LEE



book would you see if you can find me another one.

Enclosed a check for \$25 use for dues. Thanks old Buddy.

MAIL CALL

YOU DID NOT EVEN KNOW ME

IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO,
OR IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN SAY
TO THANK YOU FOR THIS WONDERFUL GIFT,
OF WHICH I CAN NEVER REPAY

YOU GAVE EVERYTHING YOU HAD,
TO PROTECT EVERYTHING YOU HOLD DEAR.
YET, YOU ASKED FOR NOTHING IN RETURN
FOR YOUR PAIN, YOUR SACRIFICE AND YOUR TEARS

I CANNOT COUNT THE MANY THINGS
THAT I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR.
WITHOUT YOUR BRAVERY ALL MY FREEDOMS
COULD HAVE BEEN NO MORE

THESE DAYS, LIFE IS SOMETHING
THAT PEOPLE TAKE FOR GRANTED,
HOW DARE WE TRAMPLE ON THE SEEDS
THAT YOU SO LOVINGLY PLANTED

YOU FOUGHT AND DIED IN FOREIGN LANDS
TO PROTECT THE FREEDOM OF OUR HOME
THE PRICE OF FREEDOM WAS NOT TOO HIGH
FOR YOU TO TAKE IT ON AS YOUR OWN.

FOR YOU, VETERAN, I AM TRULY THANKFUL,
AND EVERY DAY I WILL LET IT SHOW.
BECAUSE YOU GAVE THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF FREEDOM
TO SOMEONE YOU DID NOT EVEN KNOW.

By Wiley Hendrix
10-25-98

Note: This poem was written October 25, 1998, by WILEY Hendrix, Managing Editor of the Branson Daily News. It was written as a tribute to all of the men and women who have served this great country.

C Co. 47th Inf.
WILLIAM J. MEGLA

I have attended a few of our annual reunions. I found them to run pretty much the same each year. Because of the age of our members I feel it's time we do something to help them, instead of talking about the past, we should talk about the future, there are many programs the V.A. offers that help us.

We need to include in our programs a representative from the V.A. to discuss what benefits are available to us. Such as medical care including medication, how to apply for a pension, or increase your compensation. Also, what if we need a nursing home, can the V.A. help us, or compensation for our widows. I am an ex-prisoner of war, with 60% disability, but I receive 100% compensation, because I am unemployable. We have other ex-p.o.w. in our group, do they know about what is available to them?

I belong to The National American Ex-P.O.W. organization their motto is - We exist to help those who cannot help themselves. Maybe its time we start helping our 9th Div. Comrades.

SEEKING
ELIZABETH P. RAHN

I am looking for a copy of "8 Start to Victory," and wondered if you would put a request for information about this book in the Octofoil? I would like to hear from anyone who knows where I might obtain one. My husband, Hermon Rahn, was a soldier in the Ninth Division, and a member of the 9th Association, but he did not have one.

Thank you for your time.

39th Inf C Co.
GIFFORD PERSING

As the old saying goes, "I can't remember names, but I never forget a face," and I certainly can relate to that!

If there is anyone out there who was part of C Company, 1 Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Division that might remember the Persing twins (Rexford and Gifford) I'd like to hear from you. We were in the same squad and were 1st and 2nd scouts, trading positions often. Rexford was wounded at Remagan Bridge - just after we crossed the bridge a tank fired into the trees and broke his leg just above the knee. We were real close at the time but with his sustained injury he was sent back to the states and I finished up to the end. I thank God for being with me through all the difficult times that I needed him.

It would be real nice to make contact with some of you men from our past, so if you remember us twins, please send me a note.

15th Engrs. Bn.
JAMES OTTS JR.

Enclosed please find my check for renewal of my subscription to The Octofoil. My wife and I look forward to each issue as a source of news of the men that I served with.

If you have information regarding the plans for the World War II memorial, I feel sure that each member of The Ninth Infantry Division Association would be interested in details. Would it be possible to publish an article in one of the future issues?

Thanks for your cooperation.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN WILLIAM GOOD - SOLDIER "A SOLDIER DIED TODAY"

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast and he sat around the family telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done in his exploits with his buddies they were heroes, everyone.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors his tales became a joke all his buddies listened, for they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer, for Warren has passed away, and the world's a little poorer, for a Soldier died today,

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state, while thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories, from the time that they were young, but the passing of a Soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land some jerk who breaks his promise and cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow, who in times of war and strife, goes off to serve his country and offers up his life.

The politician's stipend and the style in which he lives are sometimes disproportioned to the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier, who offered up his all, is paid off with a medal and perhaps a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them, for it is so long ago, that our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys went to battle; but we know

It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys who won for us the freedom that our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand would you want some cop-out with his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier, who has sworn to defend, his home, his kin, and Country and would fight until the end?
to A.L. Shockley from Warren Goods niece.

39th Inf.
HERBERT TAFF

Enclosed find check for the deficit of the reunion. I did not attend the reunion but I would like to make a contribution to help the expenses.

I was a member of the 9th Infantry Division from January 1941 till June 1945. I was a member of Col. L - 39th Infantry. I was fortunate to make it till the Remagen Bridge, Germany, when I was hit in the ankle by shrapnel. That was March 17, 1945, I was in a hospital in Paris, till the war ended in europe. I rejoined my company and was discharged in June 1945 with 129 points.

I keep in touch with the 9th through the Octofoil, keep up the great work.

P.S. While at Fort Bragg I was a member of the 39th Infantry basketball team. Maj. Ratteree, who was K.I.A. at Sedjaneen was the coach of the team. He was a great hero. I was lucky to be awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster and the Purple Heart.

DOMINIC J. MARTELLO

I was a member of the 39th Infantry and invaded North Africa.

I have used every means available to find out the meaning of Octofoil to no avail.

Please send me some information regarding this patch.

P.S. I am a member of the Octofoil.

9th Div. Arty.
HENRY BOKINA

Enclosed are my yearly dues.

Everything is fine with me here in the Conn. Valley - still farming. Growing, pickling cucumbers and spinach. Everything is done with machinery. A lot of tobacco growing in town - mostly for cigars.

Cigars are making a big comeback here in Mass.

So long Dan, keep up the good work. Enjoy reading the Octofoil.

SEEKING
ROY TRAENKENSCHUH

I received your address from the American Battle Monument Commission.

I would love to hear from anybody who knew my uncle Pvt. Eugene L. Schlobohm. He was killed during the D-day Campaign. Supposedly he was buried by another Peorian. We don't have much info because in order for my grandparents/mother to cope they didn't say much.

Now, my aunt is the only remaining sibling. It would be something if there were pictures out there. We have a couple of pics with him and his buddies in England with his buddy "Don." Not much else. He wore a brass whistle on his shoulder and we couldn't figure out why. Here is his stats. Pvt. Eugene Schlobohm 36440328. Plot D, Row 1, Grave 8, Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-Sur-Mer/St Laurent-Sat-Ber, Calvados, France.

Any info would be appreciated.

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ROSEMARIE WERKMAN

WILLIAM H. MALONEY, JR.

Dear William H. Maloney,
From the OCTOFOIL / May-July 2001

Re.: The 2nd Battalion of our 39th Infantry Regiment...

I am writing in reference to your article regarding the veterans of the Ninth Infantry Division expressing their gratitude to the Royal British Navy for their help and intervention when the USS Thomas Stone was struck and severely damaged by a torpedo. It is great to recognize The British Navy for their gallantry on behalf of the USA...to recognize their heroism.

What a great generation you all were and still are from that WW II era.

Mine is a personal thank you for this resolution. My late husband, S/Sgt. Henry J. Werkman, was among the GI's transferred to a small landing craft. I have included, within, this memoir, LOVE, WAR & REMEMBRANCE, in which I honor Hank and two other soldiers who blessed my life. Hank wrote a letter home in which he described that horrific happening, among others. (Chapter 9 titled: "Hitler's Nemesis...On the March...")

As you read on, you will see that Hank honored his country with gallantry. I speak not only of his prowess on the battlefield but also of his heroics after the 'shooting' was over.

I'm proud of Hank, Joe, Bob, and I honor all of you who went out and did what you had to do, under duress, for your country.

I hope you will accept this little gift, LOVE, WAR & REMEMBRANCE; writing it was a catharsis for me when Hank died; it became a gratifying and rewarding experience.

Bless you and all the men of the Ninth... and Joy in the mornings.

39th FA
A.L. SHOCKLEY

Enclosed is my check for my dues and for the Memorial Fund in memory of my buddies C.A. Porch and Warren Good.

Here is a copy of a memo-ry to Warren Good his niece sent me