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The Octofoil, March/April 2002

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07086

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXIII Mar-April 2002

NINTH DIVISION WORCESTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

Worcester - 2002

"Lest We Forget"

We who call ourselves the "Friends of Father Connors" shall meet again in praying for our dead on Sunday, October 20, 2002 at the eleven o'clock Mass at the church of the Immaculate Conception, Grove Street in Worcester, MA.

We will also remember in our prayers the men that wore the Octofoil and returned home with us and who have now gone to their eternal reward.

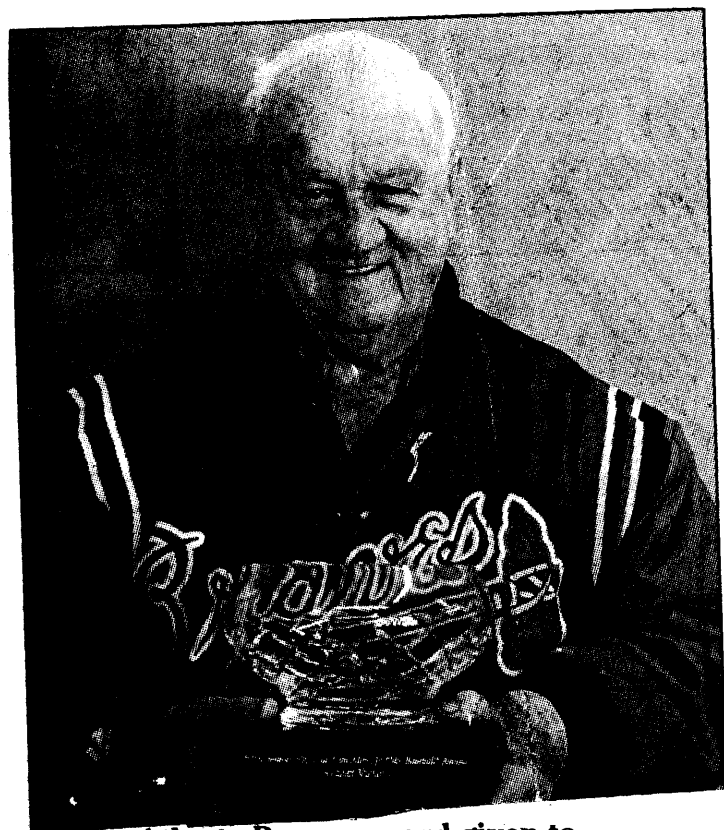
A service will follow the mass at our memorial on the church grounds to honor the dead (4,581) that are listed on the Microfilm set into the wall of our memorial.

We will sponsor a luncheon at the Holiday Inn, 500 Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA 01605. As our friend Tom Boyle has always stated we will have you on your way home by 3:00 PM.

We have reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn, Worcester, MA. Reservations must be by yourselves. The phone number is 1-508-852-4000. Reservations must be by Sept. 18, 2002.

Reservations for luncheon must be made payable to the Ninth Infantry Division Assoc. at a "per person cost of \$20.00 and mailed to Herbert E. Olsen,

Tom Boyle - Fran Maher - Ron Murphy and Herb Olsen



Atlanta Braves award given to Dawsonville photographer

By CHARLES DUNCAN
Dawson News & Advertiser

Walter Victor's time has come. For more than 35 years, Dawsonville's Victor has captured some of the greatest moments in sports history, mainly, professional baseball, football, basketball and racing.

Through the years, he has photographed every player who has donned an Atlanta Braves uniform, such as the likes of Hank Aaron, Joe Torre, Phil Niekro, Felix Milan, Felipe Alou, Dale Murphy, Chipper Jones, and even St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa, who served a brief stint with the Braves in 1973.

Victor also once served as team photographer for the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta, Hawks, capturing the likes of linebackers Tommy Nobis and Greg Brezina, and shooting guards, "Super" Lou Hudson and "Pistol" Pete Maravich.

On Saturday at the Hilton Atlanta Northwest, Pete Van Wieren, a longtime member of the Braves broadcast team, said Victor easily could be recognized as "Mr. Atlanta Sports."

On this occasion, the 36th Annual Eddie Glennon Gameboree, sponsored by the Braves 400 Club, Victor received an honor just as fitting, the Ivan Allen Jr., "Mr. Baseball" Award, named for the former mayor of Atlanta, the man responsible for bringing Major League Baseball to the South.

Awarded annually since 1992, the Ivan Allen award is presented to the person who has contributed significantly to the promotion of baseball in the Atlanta area.

"Mr. Baseball, the title too narrowly defines this year's winner," Van Wieren told the crowd of more than 300. "He is part of the baseball, basketball and football Hall of Fame, yet he never took a snap, had an at-bat or grabbed a rebound.

Continued on page 4

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 Blann - In memory of Walter O'Keefe, Ray Inzer, Tom Boyle, Ron Murphy and Ken Meyer.

Francis Bozarth George Pedrick - In memory of Richard J. Todd, Hdqs. Co. 2nd Bn. 39th Inf.

William Bongiorno - In memory of Johnny Murray, Joe Albanese, Joe McKenzie and my dear friend, Franny Maher.

Morris Taylor Ben J. Banas

Howard Granger - In memory of 15th Engrs. And all 9th men who have passed on.

Ralph Burris - In memory of men of Co. I 39th Inf.

Joseph Pizzi - In memory of deceased 60th Inf. Members. Marline Sanchez - In memory of husband, Margarito (Mike) Sanchez, G Co. 47th Inf.

Trevor Jones

John Knight - In memory of Dewey Siddons.

Joe Killen - In memory of Joe Coppelino, G Co. 60th Inf. And Irene Gross, wife of Dr. Martin Gross.

Pete Rice - In memory of Col. Hermann Lange.

Esther Libretto - In memory of Irene Gross.

Jessie Arnold - In memory of husband, William.

Anna McLaughlin - In memory of husband Frank McLaughlin, 84th F.A., Bty A and Fr. Connors Alter Server.

Jack Blann - In memory of Ralph Boragine.

Delphina Macedo - In memory of husband, James from A Co. 47th Inf. And George Morgan.

Dan Quinn - In memory of Irene Gross.

Taps Sounded

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

With deep remorse we announce the passing of these friends and comrades. May they rest in peace. To their loved ones we extend our deepest sympathy.

Sammie Goodwin I Co. 60th Inf.

Bruno Guarniert D Co. 47th Inf.

Dewey Siddons 47th Inf. M. Co.

Col. Hermann Lange 84 F.A.

Irene Gross Wife of Dr. Martin Gross

Russell Snelling 39th Inf. F & E Co.

Francis McLaughlin Bty A. 84th F.A.

James Macedo A Co. 47th Inf.

PIGEON FORGE IS WAITING FOR THE 9TH

Well, here we are in the 21st Century, with the 57th Reunion coming up May 7 to 9th at the Country Inn & Suites in Pigeon Forge, TN. The trip by car is really most enjoyable, as there is so much to see on this trip to Pigeon Forge. I assure you it is scenic, once you get off the Inter-State. If you have time get on 441 from the south and on your way just before you get to Cherokee, NC. The Casino Harrah's is a good stop over to win or lose a few. After leaving Harrah's you look for 441 it will take you through the Smokey Mountains for about 35 or 40 miles and you have arrived in Pigeons Forge. Greatest place for shopping and live shows. One thing I must tell you when you check in, after you settle down and want to see what's round the area, you must take the 25 cent bus ride around the area it travels, you can then pick the area you would like to see or visit. I might add you can also drive to Gatlinburg. "Great Antique" Area.

Phase two, if you are traveling from the north on 75 watch for 321, it will take you right into Pigeon Forge. Very scenic through the Mountains, a lot to see. When you get into Pigeon Forge you will see Mel's Diner, go down the road where you make a right turn 1/2 mile and you are at the Country Inn & Suites.

Phase three if you are coming from the south on 75 stay on 75 past Chattanooga exit on 321 that comes before 40-75. Follow Phase two directions to the Country Inn & Suites.

From the chairman, I urge you this is the place to come. When you see it you will agree with me. I want you folks to make your reservations by April 6, 2002 as I am sure we are going to have a good turn out. At this point it's looking good. I am chairing this Reunion without too much help. It would be appreciated if you old timers would bring your old name tags. This will not only save money but a lot of work.

P.A. Radichio



DOWN MEMORY LANE

60th Inf.
Ronald M. A. Hirst

Mathildenstrasse 4
D - 65189 WIESBADEN

Dear Mr. Quinn

This year I will make my 21st trek to Normandy. I wish to alert any 9th-man or family member who happens to be in the area that he/she might contact me. We could break bread together or visit one of the many Ninth Division sites.

I'll be quartered in CHERBOURG, 9-16 June 2002. Mercure Hotel. Telephone: (in-country) 02 33440111. Out-of-country: (area code 33) 02 33440111.

I'll be quartered in BAYEUX 16-23 June 2002. Novotel. Telephone: (in country) 02 31921611. Out-of-country: (country code 33) 02 319212611. (NOTE: "area code" above should read "country code.")

Then too I'm including with this letter a roster of the 498 9th-men buried in Normandy American Cemetery at COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER. I will visit the Cemetery twice while quartered in BAYEUX. If any family member wishes me to lay wreath at one of the gravesites they have but to contact me. I would be privileged.

My last comment. I noted (to make certain) that our Division history records, "Orders were given to disembark the first Ninth Division elements on Saturday morning the 10th. It took several days to unload the entire Division." Then a few lines later it records that "On June 12th - in the first action of a Ninth Division unit on the continent of Europe..." Yet one of our "attached" units, 746 Tank Battalion, lost 9 men prior to the 10th of June. Five, as a matter of fact, on D-Day, 6 June: FARMER, MAGUFFEE, MERCER, O'MALLEY and VAN METER.

It would be a grand surprise were I to meet or at least talk to a Ninth-person while in Normandy. Maybe we could visit the Cemetery together. I have my own wheels.

With my warmest regards to your trusty helpmate, Marie, I remain

Cordially
R.M.A. Hirst

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

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

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."

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 addi-

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The Octofoil

Publication #402420

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION

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 Auxiliary Member.....\$30.00

Decals.....50 each

Philly - New York Valley

Illinois

New England

Florida

Texas - New York

☐ Greater New York

☐ Washington, D.C.

☐ Michigan

☐ New Jersey

☐ California Chapter

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).

E Co., 4th Inf.
JACK R. BLANN
11303 Valley Stream Drive
Houston, TX 77043

I had planned to send this letter to you back in December. Then I heard of the death of another old comrade and had to add another to the memorial gift that I am enclosing. Please accept my gift in memory of the following: Walter O'Keefe, Ray Enzer, Tom Broyle, Ron Murphy, and Ken Meyer.

I was rummaging through some of my old papers and found a copy of The Raider newspaper dated April 6, 1946. There was a prominent article in the paper concerning Lt. Col. Ray Inzer. I was the chief writer for the paper at that time but I don't think that I wrote the article. I think it was probably submitted to us by the 3rd Battalion. It is good resume of Ray Inzer's service in the 47th Infantry and if you have room, it would be good to reprint it in The Octofoil sometime. I recall and admire Ray Inzer very much. He was one of a trio of outstanding battalion commanders that served the 47th at the end of the war. Fortunately, I was able to tell Ray this in person a couple of years ago. At that time, the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter met in Abilene and honored Ray and his family with a dinner. I trust that you and Marie are doing well. I look forward to seeing you in Pigeon Forge.

Best Regards

A Co. 47th Inf.
DEL MACEDO

I'm writing to inform you and the members of my great loss, my precious one, my husband Jim left this world on Jan. 4, 2001. He was buried in his hometown, Fall River, Mass. And he had a beautiful military funeral. The soldiers from Fort Drum, NY came. I'm sure Jim was happy.

I and my son met another great veteran at the wake, Walter S. Stanko, it really helped us a lot listening to him tell about different things that happened during the war.

I also have a favor to ask you, could you please continue to send me the Octofoil? I always enjoyed reading it along with Jim.

Enclosed you will find a check for a contribution to the Memorial Fund in memory of Jim Macedo and George Morgan - they got to be real pals during the war.

Thank you
God Bless Always

**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**

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: Jack Collier, 126 _____

Enclose Form:

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.

NY AREA CHAPTER

"Good Night, Irene"

From the opening lyrics of this titled plaintive song...we truly say good night and farewell to a jovial and enthusiastic lady who joined the 9th family, when she married Martin Gross a little over five years ago. We were saddened to her of the untimely demise of Irene on early Saturday morning, March 30, in Florida. Marty called me Saturday night and I was able to notify local chapter members about funeral arrangements to be held on Long Island on Tuesday, April 2. Seven members and their wives attended the funeral. To Marty we offer our deepest felt condolences.

March 15 Meeting

The NY Chapter met at the 69th Regt Armory on Friday evening, March 15, 2002. At 8 PM the meeting was opened by chapter president, yours truly. The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and Chaplain Al Lipton gave the invocation and all observed a moment of silence for our departed comrades.

Minutes were read by the recording secretary (also, yours truly) and the monthly and financial report was given by Secretary/Treasurer Al Zenka.

Correspondence and informational items received were noted by Zenka: Carl Eggebrecht, who died September 2001, was buried with military honors but Mrs. Eggebrecht did not notify the 9th chapter, so comrades were not present at the service. Later notified, the secretary sent a chapter condolence to the family.

Sick Call

Zenka also noted that Anton Dietrich was having urological surgery. Charlie LiBretto stated that wife Esta was slowly recovering from a stint-heart procedure. Adolph Wadalavage said Preston Billings was mending a broken leg from a fall at his church. The chapter wishes all members and their loved ones a speedy recovery.

On other matters the chapter discussed the upcoming reunion in Pigeon Forge, May 7-9, and our committee and board delegation to it. Firmed up commitments will be determined at the April 19 Chapter meeting. Also noted was the change from our usual Friday eve May meeting to be held after the NY Area Memorial Service, Saturday May 18, at the VA National Cemetery on Long Island.

Past president Joe Killen returned his 2001 Octofoil honor plaque to Zenka, who would send it to Fort Bragg to correct Joe's misspelled name plate. At 9 PM the meeting was adjourned and we stayed around for awhile shooting the breeze. Members attending not mentioned above were: Ed Harris, Al Lubrano, Joe Rzesniowiecki and Herminio Suarez.

Attention NY Chapter Members, if you haven't renewed your membership dues, this is the time to do it: \$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 Secretary/Treasurer Al Zenka, 82-36 234th St., Bellrose Manor, NY 11427-2118

Marv Levy
CO A 60th

[Redacted]

47th Inf. D Co.
DONATO IACOBUCCI

[Redacted]

A little resume of Bruno Guarnieri who passed away Feb. 11, 2002. Bruno joined the Company "D" 47 Inf. in England Oct. of 1943. He was in the 81mm mortars. He stayed with "D" Co from England to Normandy and all the campaigns of 47th Inf. that followed till we ended at the Elbe River. He was discharged in Oct. 1945.

He and his family lived in Bordentown, NJ for some time after the war then they moved to Tucson, AZ where he retired.

I don't know if he was still a member of the 9th Div. Assoc. I sent him a membership one year for his birthday but I don't know if he continued on with it. I'm sending his wife's address in case someone from "D" Co. would care to send their condolences to her.

Nancy Guarnieri - Sandi Homen

[Redacted]



SEEKING

I was serving in the 10th Armored Division in Europe when I learned of my brother's death in the 9th Division. I think he was in the 60th Infantry. His name was Leonard Hovenstine. I think he was a sergeant or a staff sergeant. He was killed near Aachen on October 10, 1944. I often wondered if anyone in the 9th might have known him. He had been in Hawaii when the Japs attacked there. He came back to the states, helped to activate the Rainbow Div. in Oklahoma and then went to Europe. I'd appreciate hearing from anyone who might have known him.

Sincerely,
Bob Hovenstine

60th Inf. F Co.
FRANK DENNIS

[Redacted]

Enclosed you will find my dues for three year membership. I would like to continue receiving the Octofoil because I enjoy hearing about how the other fellas are doing.

I'm doing good for the age of 84. Keeping my doctor and pharmacy in business and getting around pretty well. Domer Miller and I stay in contact the most from "F" Company and occasionally have dinner together with his wife Norma.

You will notice my address has changed but I still live in my home, the post office decided to make the change.

Hq. Btry, 84th FA BN
"RIP" RYBKA

[Redacted]

Sgt. Joe Lesko of Hq Btry, 84th FA BN recently passed on. His wife Anne wants to express her gratitude for the concern shown by many of his army buddies, during a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Ann Lesko would like to take this opportunity to express her deep gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown by the friends and family of her late and beloved husband, Joe. Mrs. Lesko said, "I can't begin to tell all our friends here in Tamaqua and away, how very much I appreciate all the beautiful cards, floral tributes, generous gifts of food, phone calls, memorials, and loving thoughts and prayers. I would be remiss, however, if I failed to mention individually those special friends and family members in distant places. First, Joe's niece, Kathleen, her daughter, Sue, and granddaughter, Christine in South Hampton, Philadelphia, PA; and his niece, Janice Hider and her family in San Jose, CA. The following WWII 9th Infantry Division comrades have stayed in touch with Joe over the years and have been so very supportive during my bereavement, and have remembered 'my Joey' and me with countless gestures of loving kindness: John Peluso of New Castle, PA, who passed away recently, John Boisky of Panama City, FL; Myron Bunda of Fulton, NY; Walter Ricker of Greenville, TN; Aaron Lubin of Fresh Meadows, NY; and Colonel William Rybka and his wife, Laryce, of Raleigh, NC. For the continued love and support of all our friends and family, I will ever be grateful."

47th Inf. F Co.
PETER PERI

[Redacted]

Just a note to let you know that Velma and I have moved from 22 Oakhampton Dr., Lutherville, MD 21093 to 2525 Pot Spring Road., Unit #L404, Timonium, MD 21093 Phone: 410-252-9786.

We look forward to each issue of the "Octofoil" looking for any news of the old guys from the Division, especially from "F" Co. of the 47th.

I am sorry that because of health reasons we will not be attending the convention again this year, but we sure extended our very best wishes to all of you.

60th Inf. 1st BN HDQ. Co.
CASIMIR PAKISZ

[Redacted]

Enclosed please find my check for 3 yrs. Dues. I want to say that I enjoy each issue of the Octofoil and always look forward to receiving the next issue.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FLORIDA CHAPTER REUNION: Plans are being made to hold the Florida Chapter Reunion by the Reunion Committee. Art Coulon and Gil Pernokas are searching for a suitable hotel in the Port St. Lucie area. Art reported some progress has been made but the biggest stumbling block is finding a hotel with a Hospitality Room that fits our needs. Art and Gill are in communication with President Chuck Van Der Poel who is searching in the St. Augustine/Jacksonville area. Ed Gray is the other member of the Reunion Committee. He reported that hotels in the Tampa St. Petersburg area are very expensive but will continue to explore other locations. Hopefully the Reunion Committee will have a definite commitment and a contract signed in time to report it in the MAY/JUNE/JULY issue of the OCTOFOIL.

NEW MEMBER: We welcome James W. Shewman back into our membership. He was a member of the Florida Chapter some ten years ago and now he is back. Jack sent in dues for the next three years plus money for a 9th Division Pin. It is always a good feeling to add some to our roster instead of having to cross out a name because of death. James and his wife Elizabeth live on 902 Embassy Dr., in Deltona, FL 32725. Welcome home James...looking forward to meeting both of you at the next Chapter Reunion.

HOWARD GRANGER: It is always a pleasure receiving phone calls from Chapter members...especially when the member is from out of state. He not only phoned but sent in his Florida dues, the National dues, and a donation towards the National Memorial Fund and ordered a 9th Infantry Pin. Now that's what you call a real good member. We look forward to having Howard join us at our Chapter reunion this coming fall.

EDWARD MARLIN MELLINGER: Marlin is a long established member of the Florida Chapter. For whatever reasons, he wasn't able to attend any of our latest Chapter reunions. He sent in his dues plus money for a 9th Infantry Division Pin. We look forward to seeing Marlin and his wife at our next fall meeting. Keep in touch!

EUGENE KORTH: Wife Delphine wrote a nice note together with her order for a 9th Infantry Division Pin. She stated that Gene has been having severe health problems. He suffered a heart attack several years back and is currently a throat problem. We urge Chapter members to include Eugene Korth in your prayers and also to communicate with other members especially when one is sick. Eugene and Delphine live on 1307 Idlewood Dr. in Sun City Center, FL 33573. A card or phone call would be just fine.

MAJORY & BILL MEGLA: Approximately three years ago, Bill and Majory Megla sold their condo in Stuart, FL. Bill was a Florida Chapter member at that time and attended our meetings while they lived in Florida. Ill health forced them to move back to Ohio. Majory wrote saying they plan to make the Pigeon Forge National Reunion. The Meglas now make their home at 776 Bering Ct., Westerville, OH 43081.

IRENE GROSS DIES: On April 1st. Dan Quinn informed this writer that Marty Gross' wife Irene passed away in her sleep. A phone call to Marvin Levy, a New York Chapter member, revealed that Irene became ill while they lived at their Coconut Creek, Florida apartment. She was rushed to the hospital then released several days later. A second attack brought her back to the hospital where she passed on. Funeral services were held in Hewitt, Long Island, New York. The officers and members of the Florida Chapter deeply regret the loss of Irene Gross. Condolences go to Dr. Martin Gross and all members of the family.

EIGHT STARS TO VICTORY BOOK SOLD FOR \$240.00: Max Dach, a member of the National Organization, made an exclusive phone call to this writer stating that he was able to buy a copy of the 8 STARS TO VICTORY book for \$240.00. Max engaged the services of his grandchildren who searched the Internet. They did their homework by locating a good hard copy from Ms. Melinda Chagnon of American Battlefield Co., 1177 Broadway, Suite 4, Chula Vista, California 91911-2769, Phone: (619) 585-8629. Max says he is very happy to receive the book and is spending many hours reading every word. Max Dach lives on 114708 Caledonia Rd., Caledonia, Illinois 61001.

DUES REMINDER: Please check your Florida Chapter Membership card to see when your dues expire. Notices will be going out soon to all those who have fallen back on their dues. Remember...money is needed to run the affairs of the Chapter...none of the Officers receive any compensation for their hard and devoted work of the Chapter.

9TH INF. DIV. EMBLEM PINS: The response from all around the country to purchase a 9th Inf. Div. Emblem Pin has been great. Members from other 9th Inf. Div. Chapters wrote saying that the pins are extremely attractive...especially noting that the thin gold line that runs on the perimeter of the 8 Octofoil Petals and completely around the 1" diameter really distinguishes this pin from previous models. We have a few more left. To order your pin sends \$9.00 (\$8.00 for the pin & \$1.00 for P & H) to The

Emil J. De Donato, No Credit Cards please. When these are gone, no re-order will be made.
Emil J. De Donato
FL. Chapt. Treas.

MAIL CALL

COMPANY K 47TH. INFANTRY,
9TH. DIVISION

FOUND! AT LAST

The whole Ninth Division has been a little concerned about the New Age Historians who have been unable to locate the OLD RELIABLES (Stealth Division) on the battle fields of WW EYE EYE, but worry no more, we have been discovered. PETER R. MANSOOR, Lt. Col., 4th. Inf. Div., has written "THE GI OFFENSIVE IN EUROPE The triumph of American Infantry Divisions," that says, despite 50 years of history books to the contrary, it was the American soldiers, not the equipment that won the war.

Not only has he found the NINTH which he mentions often and favorably and ranks at the top with the 1st. Div., he mentions BIG K (SUPER STEALTH) twice. The first time was the landing of K & L at SAFI and quickly taking the harbor facilities, and the second time was when the 1st. Btn. And K took up positions at Kalterherburg during the BULGE. Unfortunately, he and his editors did not catch his mistake of saying 1st, Btn., 9th Inf., and K Co., 9th. Inf. Who should have known there are 3 of each in the 9th. We know which units he was talking about. I wouldn't want to belabor the point because he made it sound like we held the entire north shoulder of the Bulge. I don't know about the 1st. Btn., but the Bulge was K's WINTER HOLIDAY.

He does get confused about who got through both lines of the Siegfried first. He credits some division of doing it in October. SUPER STEALTH K was in Schevenhutte on 17th. Of September and using the inner line bunkers.

He says that Army Historian, S.L.A. MARSHALL, started the notion that the Krauts were better soldiers, but we had more and better equipment. One of Marshall's proofs was that 25% of the Americans never fired their rifle during an attack. That sounds about right, you don't waste ammo on something you don't see, but it makes the Krauts sound bad being conquered by a non-shooting army. If a vengeful God had condemned me to be an officer in the peace time army, I would have preferred German soldiers, because they would have presented few problems, and what little they caused would have been handled by the non-coms. But for combat give me the "GO TO HELL" American GI who wasn't long on leading, but couldn't be beat at following. By and large, they considered wounds or death as probable but surrender wasn't one of their considerations. The kind of guy who could pick-up a venereal disease or a German Staff car, while riding tanks, day and night, across northern France.

Too bad our LIGHT COLONEL didn't get to select the best divisions of the war for UNIT CITATIONS by EISENHOWER. Instead, S.L.A. MARSHALL was selected and put forward this list:

Divisions whose operations have been outstanding:
30th. Infantry, 1st. Infantry, 5th Infantry.

Divisions who have been given long, arduous and workmanlike service, but have either lacked the luster, or at sometime performed less well than the first group; 9th. Infantry, 29th. Infantry, 4th. Infantry, 45th. Infantry.

SLA also recommended the 2nd. Armored because the 3rd. and 4th. Armored had already been recommended.

Eisenhower took the political advice and mixed it with his own subjective criteria, and came up with recommendations for eight divisions.

In order of priority: 1st Infantry, 2nd. Armored, 3rd. Armored, 5th. Infantry, 30th. Infantry, 2nd. Infantry, 90th. Infantry, 29th. Infantry.

I am glad I never voted for Eisenhower. Anyone who writes, as he did in his book, that troop rotation was standard practice in Europe, will lie about anything.

So with old SLA and IKE against you, how can you expect anyone to ever have heard of the NINTH. Maybe a

new class of historians will follow MANSOOR and by 2050 we will have won the war by ourselves.

K MEN

All of the following information is culled from Christmas Cards except for JOE KILLACKY, who stays in touch by mail and phone. If any of you guys have moved

BILL and BILL McKINNEY are still alive and kicking. Dr. NICKLIN has so much business he is forced to work on his days off.

GEORGE BASTEDO is keeping his frail frame together. RED and ETHEL THOMPSON are still chugging along. RED has decided to give up basketball for his 90th. birthday.

HELEN HOLMES hasn't found a new patient to push around, but she's looking.

JOE KILLACKY fills the time, when snow covers the course, keeping tabs on his grandchildren. He has a couple of cuties near by, but the athlete is in far off Texas. Our local Fox Sport Channel covers the Texas high school play-offs, so hang in there JOE.

We have had more freezing days this winter than in all of our prior 48 years. I'll have to start looking into YUCATAN real estate.

Chester H. Jordan

John Bonkowski

9th Recon

Dear Dan:

The Jan-Feb Octofoil came just in time for Easter. A letter from Bob Lynch at the bottom of page 7 was too good to be true, but I was hoping that it was one of those "miracles" that happen now and then. I'm sure that it had all the Recon excited to see his letter in the "Mail Call."

You may recall that Bob Lynch was a respected Recon Officer and was listed in the Mar-Apr 1998 Octofoil "Taps." I didn't waste any time sending him a note with a correction in the address, OH instead of OK. I was praying for a reply which never came. My letter was returned unopened and stamped "unable to forward-return to sender." Now I'm wondering how did his letter get in the Octofoil?

Another let-down was receiving our confirmation from Ramada Inn instead of Country Inn for the Convention. Our reservations were sent in plenty of time for the 4-7-02 deadline. In my inquiry to The Country Inn I've been told that they could set me up there for the regular rate. Something doesn't sound right however if there is anything positive about the whole thing there must be a good turnout in the making. That wouldn't be a bad trade-off for the inconvenience. We were hoping for a great turnout and we may have one.

I was surprised to see that the Associate Dean from the Northeastern University is involved with the National Campaign to honor Matt Urban with a U.S. Postage Stamp. I've heard that there are a few groups working towards the same goal and that's great.

Recently, I have received a letter from a Lt. Col. Michael A. Vanuga USMC (Ret) Oceanport, NJ. He is involved with lecturing students on WWII and was requesting war-time items. He's hoping to start a privately owned museum dedicated to the American Servicemen and Women of WWII. He's concerned that a lot of that history will be lost with the fast rate of veterans that are dying each day. Unfortunately I don't have that many mementoes but those that I have I intend to keep for awhile. A reply was sent with our best wishes.

Well it won't be that long before we'll be together again. The time is really flying. So till then, our very best wishes as always.

Sincerely,
John BonkowskiBrigadier General
John W Donaldson

Dear John

Reference my 20 July letter. I received a generous acknowledgement from your Deputy but he made no mention of your person. I trust it was a holiday and not illness which precluded your personal word.

Either way, John, I've forwarded the list of Ninth Infantry Division men buried in European cemeteries to the Secretary, Ninth Infantry Division Association. It will be of incalculable value to the membership. It will offer a permanent source of answer to question from future generations. I am indebted. I thank you too in the name of the Association.

Take care of one another, John, and again, do visit on your next coming to Germany.

Cordially
Scotty
Cc: Secretary Ninth Div. Assoc.

Continued from Victor was honored

"He has been in attendance at every meaningful sporting event in the history of Atlanta, most of which he memorialized for posterity," Van Wieren said. "He is a decorated war hero who participated in the Normandy Invasion. He is a caring and giving spirit."

"Tonight, we honor this man with the title of 'Mr. Baseball.' He could just as easily be recognized as 'Mr. Atlanta Sports'... Please welcome Mr. Baseball, Walter Victor."

The crowd rose to its feet. For more than five minutes, an emotional Victor soaked in the applause, gazing in awe of the hundreds in attendance that cheered him as he approached the podium.

It was a moment the 84-year-old sports legend and Dawsonville resident will never forget.

"You know me, I've always got something to say," Victor said. "For once in my life, I was speechless. I can't describe the feeling; it just made me feel warm all over."

Victor's wife of almost 60 years, Ruth Victor, said her husband was indeed speechless for one of the few occasions since she has known him.

"He absolutely was dumbfounded, so was I," Ruth Victor said. "We had no idea he was going to receive the Ivan Allen award. Some of the Braves told me that was the first time they've ever noticed Walter as a man of few words."

As spring training approaches for the defending Eastern Division champions, the Braves organization has asked Walter Victor to be the team's photographer for an astonishing 36th consecutive year.

Victor is the only photographer in the team's history in Atlanta.

Awarded annually since 1992, the Ivan Allen award is presented to the person who has contributed significantly to the promotion of baseball in the Atlanta area.

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SEEKING

Dear Mr. Quinn:

We found your name and address of Octofoil on the 9th homepage. We are searching for information in reference to the 9th Division 39th Infantry Company C during World War II.

My father was PFC James Lawrence Daniel; he was with the 9th Div., 39th Infantry, Company C. He landed at Utah Beach, went on to Cherbourg and was killed in action outside St. Lo at a place called Pont Ducrie, France on July 19, 1944.

We have been trying to find information in reference to his company. How would we go about finding a roster of his old company? We have searched the web with no results. We would love to find someone we may communicate with whom might have known my father.

My mother never talked about my father. She says she doesn't remember anything, nor did she save any letters from those days. She is now 84 and in failing health, we are trying to find out these things for her as well as myself.

We would appreciate any information you furnish with us. We would also like to subscribe to the Octofoil, please send us information and a copy of the newspaper.

Thank you, we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
James Lawrence Daniel, Jr.Co. B 15th Combat Engrs.
CHARLIE HOFFMANN

A friend told me he was reading the book "Patton," when he saw my name referred to in an incident at El Guettar. It was about General Patton coming up a small hill and introducing himself. He spoke to our Lt. Ware asking him about the situation and our lieutenant briefed him.

Lt. Ware was killed four days later up in Sedjenane during an air raid.

I found the book "Patton" by Carlo D'Este very good reading.

Please put photo and outlined incident in Octofoil.