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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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5-1-2002

### The Octofoil, May/June/July 2002

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

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

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION • Volume XLXXIII Number 3 • 2002 May, June, July 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, P [REDACTED]

Tom Boyle - Fran Maher - Ron Murphy and Herb Olsen

### When it Began



Immediately following Protestant Chapel Service Catholic Mass was conducted by CHAPLAIN EDWARD CONNORS of HOLY CROSS COLLEGE assisted by Private Joseph Gilligan. NORTH AFRICA APRIL 25, 1943

### Change of Command



Al Perna, left turns his gavel of President over to George Brown.

### 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:**

Mrs. John Robinson - In memory of Alex Balough, 9th Med.

Aldor Cook - In memory of Alex Balough, 9th Med.

Eugene M. Cronin - In memory of his father Eugene D. Cronin, 60th Inf. MCS and mother Anne.

Kenneth Hill - In memory of Brayton Willis and Russell Snelling, both of E. Co. 39th Inf.

John Losnes -- In memory of Richard Pepper, L Co. 39th Inf.

H.F. Stansell  
June Hoepfner - In memory of U. Herbert Hoepfner.

R.M.H. Hirst  
Mrs. William Mooty - In memory of husband William, Co. E 47th Inf.

Stanley Kazdoy - In memory of the men of Co. A. 39th Inf.

George Brown - In memory of James Macedo, Co. A. 47th Inf.

Donald Hyde - In memory of Kenneth Goodfellow and Lester Guilford, Co. B 9th Med. And Alex Balough, 9th Med. C Co.

Andrew Kopach - In memory of Alex Balough, C Co., 9th Med.

William Doty - In memory of George Booth, Cannon Co. 39th Inf.

Nancy Ciluffo Sagorski - In memory of George Booth, 9th Inf. Cannon Co.

William Doty - In memory of George Booth, 39th Inf. Cannon Co.

Lola Booth - In memory of husband George, 39th Inf. Cannon Co.

9th Div. Ladies Aux. - Toward publication of Octofoil.

39th Inf. C. Co.  
CLETIS WINNINGHAM

[REDACTED]

Haven't wrote anything lately for the Octofoil and the last time I wrote any it wasn't put in the Octofoil. So I'll try again.

On Dec. the 31st 2001 I fell on snow and broke both bones in my right leg below the knee. Doctor put two rods in the biggest bone to stay in permanent. Have been on a walker but it's improved a lot, can put weight on it now and can walk with a four prong cane, but my blood sugar is high now and have had a dizzy head for 2 1/2 weeks. Doctor is trying to get it down.

I missed going last year to the reunion and seeing everyone, but hope to see a lot there this year.

### Lancaster Host in 2003 Reunion

Late April after Easter there is so much to see and do it's hard to put it in one paper. Everything can be done in the one hotel. The rooms are large and classy. I have already contacted lots of our 9th men. They seem to be quite enthused. We will spend our time among the Amish People. There are game rooms, pool rooms, card rooms, etc. This is all included in your one hotel price.

We have been thinking of helping out a few of our members who cannot afford to come on their own finances. Included in your hotel price is three full all you can eat breakfast and whatever you feel like eating. Also your banquet meal is in the one price. All taxes and gratuities are included in the hotel price. It is also wheelchair friendly. We are working on at least one dinner show with bus transportation. In the Octofoil you can get an idea of how much there is to see.

We are also looking into planes, trains and buses coming into the hotel. We know many of you will drive to the hotel. Look for directions in the Octofoil. We know that most of our strong members will attend God willing. We are four co chairmen Esta and Charles Libretto and Felice and Al Perna.

One more thing we urge you to call in early to get a first floor room. You can park your car in front of your room. We will continue to make as many personal calls to our membership. I have asked Jack Blann, Pete Radichio and Dan Quinn for all addresses and phone numbers. They have mailed them to me right away. They have my undying gratitude. Thanks a lot.

All roads lead to the Amish Horse & Buggy Country. We are planning a very good program for our reunion. We are looking into a color guard for our Memorial Service. We would enlist any member close to the hotel or area to help us in this venture.

When you send in your strip ticket money we would appreciate your telling us if you still have your name tags. Please list your phone or cell phone number.

When we get the applications for your room reservations into our newspaper it is imperative that you send in your deposit as soon as possible and make your request for a first floor room. This hotel is wheelchair friendly.

I am making as many calls to all members as possible. I average about five or six calls nightly.

I am elated to report that all members I have contacted gave me positive suggestions and have volunteered to help in any way they can.

Let me give you some of the members I have called. Bob De Sandy gave me some advice on areas that I was weak at. Mike Belmonte was very cooperative and will talk it up when they have their mini reunion. Jack Blann from the Texas chapter sent me a list of members who attended the reunion two years ago in Texas. It also contained all the phone numbers. I cannot tell you the great help it was to me. Thank you Jack.

Al Zenka has extended an invitation to us to attend the mini reunion of New York. We have already sent in our deposit.

When we called Herb Olson about the memorial mass in Worcester he gave me all the information we needed. We will also hold a board meeting while we are there. Our President George Brown reported a quorum will attend.

Felice and I are looking forward to dining at The Sole Proprietor. It has very good seafood. We will reserve seats for Dan and Marie, Herb and Pauline, George and Janet, Dave and Devore. My mouth is watering already.

Emil Di Donato from Florida told me he is going to bring memorabilia that goes back to the days in Fort Bragg.

Herb Stern from Texas and I had a long talk and a few laughs. He will also help if we need him.

Tom Hotton said when they get together he will relate what a good deal this hotel price is.

Before I go any further let me give a report on our last Xmas dinner. It was held at Ralph's Restaurant in South Philadelphia. It is one block from our well known Italian Market. This is the third year we have been meeting there. We had about 30 people in attendance. We missed Mary Jane and Dick Stair She was having a operation on her eyes. We hope by now everything went well and we will see her soon. Lenny Tomasone had a health problem. On our last talk with Edie she reported Lenny was much better. By the way Tony (Saprono) you did not have to eat that third helping of pasta. Paul and Lydia had eaten at Ralph's before and was familiar with the food. We met them both at the Show Boat in Atlantic City twice in the last month.

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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

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 Biann

Houston, TX

Al Perna

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.

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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 Auxillary Member.....\$300

Decals.....50-each

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐  
Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐  
New England ☐ Michigan ☐  
Florida ☐ New Jersey ☐  
Texas ☐ California Chapter ☐

Board to Hold Meeting

A meeting will take place Saturday, October 19, 2002 at 3:30 PM at the Holiday Inn Motel in Worcester, Massachusetts. The following day the "Friends of Father Connors" will hold the Annual Mass and Services that began in 1945 by the late Father Connors.

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Final report of the 2002 Reunion.
2. Progress report of the 2003 Reunion being held in Lancaster, PA.
3. Miscellaneous.

As always I am looking forward to this weekend and meeting the "old gang."

Sincerely,  
Dan Quinn

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2003 - FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2003  
LANCASTER HOST RESORT  
RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

RATES QUOTED ARE PER PERSON  
SPECIAL PACKAGE

\$348.60	Per Stay, Single Occupancy
\$427.50	Per Stay, Double Occupancy
\$506.34	Per Stay, Triple Occupancy
\$585.24	Per Stay, Quad Occupancy

Package plan to include (3) nights accommodations, breakfast each morning, Thursday evening banquet and all taxes and gratuities per person, per stay.

There will be a \$15.00 charge, per day, for a roll-a-way bed.

NOTE: All rates include 6% PA State Tax, 3.9% county tax and 1.1% excise tax equaling a total of 11%

\* Forms received after Sunday, 3/23/03 will be confirmed if rooms are still available at prevailing hotel rates.

\* DEPOSIT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100.00 MUST ACCOMPANY FORM TO CONFIRM RESERVATION.

\* Please make check payable to: Major credit cards are accepted at hotel, as well as for deposits.

\* Hotel confirmation is required at check-in.

\* LANCASTER HOST RESORT

2300 Lincoln Highway East

Lancaster, PA 17602

FAX: (717) 295-5112

CHECK TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED:

- ☐ SINGLE OCCUPANCY  
☐ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - King Bed  
☐ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - Two Double Beds

\*\* ☐ WILL BE SHARING ROOM

NOTE: GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS NOT CANCELLED 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE DAY OF ARRIVAL WILL FORFEIT ONE NIGHT'S DEPOSIT.

ROOM TYPE IS BY REQUEST AND EVERY ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR REQUEST.

NO PHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

PLEASE FILL OUT ONLY ONE FORM FOR EACH ROOM NEEDED.  
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NO. OF CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* ROOMMATES: \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN'S AGES \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If credit card deposit:

☐ American Express ☐ VISA ☐ Master Card ☐ Diners Card ☐ Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\* CREDIT CARDS WILL BE CHARGED \$100.00 DEPOSIT UPON RECEIPT OF RESERVATION.

CHECK-IN AFTER 4 PM CHECK-OUT 11 AM

SEEKING

Does anyone remember Robert (Bob) Petry of Co K, 60th Infantry? He was my brother. He was a sometimes S/Sgt being busted a few times for fighting and general Hell raising. At Camp Campbell he was on the boxing team.

Bob was killed Dec. 11, 1944 near Konzendorf, Germany. This was in the area of Merode Castle, and the town of Langewehre.

I know memories fade after almost 60 years, but I would appreciate hearing from anyone who remembers him.

Sincerely,  
Warren Petry



Continued from Page 1

### Al Perna, Co Chairman of 2003 Reunion

Now to get back to the task at hand. Pete and Margie Radichio have been back and forth on the phone with us. We all would like to congratulate both of them and their co chairman Jack Collier and Nadine for their fine work at Pigeon Forge. If you remember Jack came in cold, and volunteered when we suddenly lost Richard Bordeaux God rest his soul. Jack and Nadine poured their hearts into this reunion, we must commend them on their hard work. Pete also said we did well. Thank you both.

My wife (Felice) had a long talk with Jean Geary. Thanks a lot for the information about places to go for our dinner show. By the way Henry when we golf at this hotel you wont have to walk up and down hills. Yesterday I played 18 holes and shot 105 ½. You know I have to hit from the red tees, but I'm improving.

I have to apologize for the change in dates. The hotel did not have enough rooms left for us the first week in May. The last week is graduation week, thus the date in April. We also had a long talk with Willy (Snuffy), Judy Goldsmith. It was a very warm and pleasant conversation. They are already looking into the best way to get there. By the way they are from California.

Mike Pelle and Phil Concellate (Silver Star) will drive down. Don't forget to bring your clubs Mike. You will only have to spot me 30 strokes. You can make book on that. Your wife and I had a good laugh on the phone.

Emil Langer in our talk told me about getting in touch with the Chamber of Commerce. Thanks Emil but don't stop we need all the help we can get.

The other day I was at the V.A, and saw a guy with the Octofoil on his hat. He told me the last time he was at a reunion was at Fort Bragg and was very angry because he could not get a room where we were staying. He gave me his address and phone number and told me that if I called him he would attend the next reunion. His name is Frank Venezia and lives in N.J.

Ho.C. 39th  
Your Commarade Al Perna

### Strip Tickets

\$75 Per Person

Will include a beer and pretzel, potato chips Tuesday night get together. Wednesday we will go to a dinner and stage show.

This will also include the program books, the flower at our memorial plus a disc jockey.

There will be a detailed report on all monies spent.

Make checks payable to 9th Inf. Div. 2003 Reunion,

Name of Member _____
Address _____
City, State Zip _____
Phone or Cell No. _____
Company _____ Regiment _____
Battalion _____ Unit _____
Wife or Guest Name _____
Amount Enclosed _____
Thank You

### TO ALL MEMBERS

Please Note: The dinner theater will hold only 320 people. We are expecting many more than this. As I receive your strip ticket money I will call you right away to notify you of your seat. That is why when you send your money it is of the utmost importance you give me your phone number.

I have had a ball calling some of the men and women I have talked to. Here are some of the members: Hazel and Neil Aberegg of West Virginia, Bill and Alice Doty, Pennsylvania, Charlie and Mary McLhinny of Maryland, Bill and Marilyn of Michigan, John and Martina of Vermont, and Mike Pelle and his wife from Pennsylvania. There were a lot more, too numerous to mention.

I will write you all of the progress we are making.

Your Commander  
Al Perna

### Seeking

Dear Mr. Quinn,  
I am taking the opportunity to write to you with respect to my uncle who was a member of the 9th Infantry Division during WWII. I have long been an avid collector of WWII memorabilia, and in recent years have done more research into various aspects of military history, in particular, thanks in large part to the wealth of information now out there with the 50th Anniversary and the World Wide Web. My strongest research field involves women in the military, something that has not been documented to my satisfaction. But that is another story in itself.

My uncle's name is: Edwin E. Holappa. He achieved the rank of Staff Sgt. while in Normandy. He was with Co. L, 3rd Battalion, 60th Regiment. His service number is: RA 16020890. He was wounded twice while in the ETO, and after the second time, a Medical Review Board stipulated that he had had enough. The remainder of his time in the ETO was spent training aviation support personnel for combat. He is a decorated soldier, although I am not entirely sure about the types of medals they are, with the exception of the PH's, and campaign medals. He was offered a battlefield commission, but declined. He enlisted, but had no intention of making the Army a permanent career move. Upon his release in summer, '45 he went to work for Ford Motor Co. in Detroit, MI, and worked until retirement age. He and my aunt just celebrated their 50th anniversary in March.

He is now 76 years old, and a walking vault of historical information. I want to be able to capture that and share his memories with others. It would be nice to be able to contact other members of his organization — he says, "nah, there is no one left." Not being computer literate, he has a hard time believing there are so many WWII veterans and offspring of such, out there, just waiting to have someone tell their stories.

Any guidance or assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,  
Linda Schweitzer



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

### Minutes of the 196th National Board of Governors Meeting

The 196th meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held on May 7th, 2002 in the Country Inn Suites, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. During the 57th annual reunion.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M. by President Albert Perna who requested that all of the attendees stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer for all of our departed comrades with a special thought for our recent losses of Walter O'Keeffe, Tom Boyle, Arthur Schmidt, and Ron Murphy; all who passed away since our last reunion.

The minutes of the two most recent Board of Governors meetings, the 194th and the 195th, were read and after a motion made and seconded they were accepted as read. President Perna called for the Treasurer's report, which was read and questioned. On the motion to accept made by Pete Radichio, seconded by Pat De Colli, the body voted to accept the Treasurer's report. President Perna asked for a report from the reunion committee and Pete Radichio and Jack Collier, the reunion co-chairmen, reported that things were running along as smooth as possible as people were still in the process of arriving and they had no way of knowing the exact amount of people at the reunion because all who had made reservations were not checked in as yet. To further complicate their calculation, people were arriving who had not prearranged for their visit and were just showing up "out of the blue." President Perna thanked them for their report and congratulated them and their wives for the excellent job that they were doing.

President Perna then read correspondence from member Vince Terrible requesting how to obtain a copy of our history, "Eight Stars to Victory." Adolph Wadalavage will act upon that request. Perna read a letter from member Ronald M.A. Hurst and presented the enclosed donation to the Treasurer Joe Killen, along with another donation from a member's widow, June Hoepfner.

President Perna then assigned members of the Board of Governors to be committee chairmen for the General meeting to be held the next morning. The assignments were as follows:

Nominating, Jack Blann; Newspaper, Billie Martin; Finance, Rodger Alsgaard; Miscellaneous, Adolph Wadalavage; By-Laws, Dave Heller.

There was no further business to come before the Board, and upon a motion to close made by Pat DeColli and seconded by Billie Martin, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM.

The Board members present at the meeting were: -- President Albert Perna, Adolph Wadalavage, Dave Heller, Pete Radichio, H.F. Stansell, Billie Martin, Jack Blann, Herb Stern, Joe Killen, Rodger Alsgaard (as alternate for the absent Tom Saunders).

Officers present were: -- Tom Hatton, 1st V.P.; Pat DeColli, 2nd V.P.; Dave Heller, Judge Advocate; and Joe Killen, Treasurer.

Also interested in the proceedings were: -- Emil Langer, Martin Gross, Elmer Wagner, George Brown, Bob DeSandy, Jack Collier, Mike Belmonte, Alphonse Zenka, Charles LiBretto, John Maloney, Allen J. Kelley, Charles McLhinney, John Moore, Ernie Mika, Al Ferrante, and Bob Apel.

The minutes of these proceedings were kept and reported as requested by the Secretary Dan Quinn who had to withdraw at the last hour by Joe Killen, "Pinch-hit" secretary.

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002

\*\*\* GOD BLESS AMERICA \*\*\*

### Minutes of the 197th Board of Governors Meeting

The 197th meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held on May 9th, in the Country Inn Suites, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee during the 57th annual reunion. At 2:00 PM President Perna called the meeting to order with the following members present: Elmer Wagner, Herb Olsen, Adolph Wadalavage, Charles LiBretto, Jack Blann, Herb Stern, Pete Radichio, Pat DeColli, George Brown, Alternate Rodger Alsgaard, Judge Advocate Dave Heller, 1st V.P. Tom Hatton, and Treasurer Joe Killen. Also in attendance were: Billie Martin, John Maloney, Joe Maiale, Chuck Jones, Emil Langer, Alphonse Zenka, Martin Gross, Bob DeSandy, John Bonkowski, Charles Van der Poel, Lawrence Kaufman, Morton Wolk, Dwight Merrill, Paul Schumacher, Al Ferrante, Ernie Mika, and John Moore.

President Perna asked the members present to stand for a moment of silent prayer for our departed comrades of WWII and for those who have since joined those who did not return from the battlefield.

Upon a motion made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Jack Blann it was voted to dispense with reading of the minutes of the last Board meeting.

Upon a motion made by Dave Heller and seconded by Pat DeColli it was voted to dispense with reading the Treasurer's report.

Continued on next page

Continued from last page

Election

President Perna called for the Election of Officers for the coming year. Elected were:

President, George H. Brown; 1st Vice President, Tom Hatton; Secretary, Daniel Quinn; 2nd Vice President, Pat DeColli; Treasurer, Joe Killen; 3rd Vice President, Emil Langer; and Judge Advocate, Dave Heller.

President Perna while turning over the power of authority to the newly elected President George H. Brown thanked the members for their cooperation for the past

Upon a motion made by Pete Radichio and seconded by Pat DeColli it was voted to send a letter thanking the color guard from the local American legion for their part in the Association's Memorial service which took place that morning. A similar letter is to be sent to the local High School thanking them for their choir's part in the same services. These letters are to be sent by the Secretary on stationary showing the Association's logo.

Upon a motion made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Al Perna it was voted that the Association's current holdings of CGM mutual fund shares shall not be cashed or surrendered at anytime without the consent of the Board of Governors at a meeting of the Board.

Upon a motion made by Jack Blann and seconded by Dave Heller it was voted to appoint Bob DeSandy, Al Perna, and George Brown as a committee of three to investigate and select a suitable location for the reunion to be held sometime in the year 2003. This Committee is to report its findings to the Board of Governors no later than 30 days from the date of this meeting, which will be approximately Saturday, June 8th.

There being no further business to come before this body and upon a motion made by Pat DeColli and seconded by Pete Radichio it was voted to close the meeting at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
For the Secretary  
Joseph P. Killen  
"Pinch-hitter" Secretary

\*\*\* GOD BLESS AMERICA \*\*\*

TREASURER REPORT

The Ninth Infantry Division Assoc. maintains a checking account at the First Union National Bank located in Weehawken, New Jersey. All Deposits are made by the secretary. All checks and withdrawals are prepared by the secretary and signed by the treasurer and the first vice president. We have also invested in mutual funds. All accounts have been balanced.

GENERAL FUND

BALANCE -	June 1, 2001	\$ 2,290.03
	Income	29,173.16
		31,463.19
	Disbursements	-23,991.60
BALANCE -	May 31, 2002	7,471.59

INCOME:

Memorial Fund	3,705.14
Donations	7,048.00
CD	10,770.26
2001 Reunion Debit	3,454.00
Sales	21.00
Dues	4,100.00
CGM	74.76
	29,173.16

DISBURSEMENTS

Sec. Salary	935.00
Clerical	935.00
Utilities	880.00
Postage	1,995.00
Misc.	400.00
Supplies	540.00
Sec. Exp.	730.00
Ed. Exp.	400.00
Tr. Exp.	200.00
Print Octofoil	4,480.00
Mail Octofoil	2,700.00
Label & Handle	1,425.00
Accountant	325.00
Wreath	140.00
'02 Loan	1,250.00
Bank Charges	64.00
'01 Reunion Charges	6,561.10
Print Report	31.50
	23,991.60

Dear Dan:

A late note to let you know, that we missed you and Marie at the Reunion in Pigeon Forge. We're hoping that you're feeling better and getting around once again.

It was a nice convention and we've experienced that true southern hospitality. Enjoyed seeing some of our ol' friends again. It also was good to have George Brown as our new President and Herb Olsen inviting everyone to the Memorial Weekend in Worcester, MA. A good turn out would not only be a fine tribute in memory of Father Connors but also to Fran Maher, Tom Boyle and Ron Murphy.

We've had a busy time around here visiting too many funeral homes as our friends and relatives are leaving one after another. Then there were graduations and all the other activities to keep us on the go. Besides a couple weddings there's more to come.

We haven't been getting anywhere with Arlington so an appeal was sent to Pres. Bush on "D-Day." We're still waiting for a reply as time is quickly passing by. Some of those whom contributed to Matty's monument have never lived to see it. The latest was Barney Tobbaco from Michigan.

From a recent Jennie Urban's letter, we learned that Matty's first grandchild is expected right on 4th of July. Sad among other things that he didn't live to see it.

The petition drive to honor Matty with a commemorative stamp is doing well as more organizations are getting involved. However we'll still have to wait till at least 2005 before it happens.

We'll close for now hoping that you will keep feeling better. Rose and I send our best wishes to you and Marie.

Best regards,  
John Bonkowski

47th Inf. K Co.

IRA LEE MOSER  
5064 Baux Mt. Rd.  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

I really enjoyed the Pigeon Forge Reunion. Looking forward to the next one. Enclosed \$25.00 for 3 yrs. Membership, \$25.00 for the Octofoil. I talked briefly to a gentleman from K Co 47th who told me about coming into a clearing and finding several buddies from L 47th. They first thought they were gassed because they saw no sign of injury. If he reads this he will know who I am. I was shocked when he told me this and failed to get his name or give him mine. I remember L Co-H7 was about wiped out that day. I think it was Nov. 21, 1944. My phone number [REDACTED]

PIGEON FORGE

Dear Dan,

Now the reunion is over I must say it's a success many times over. We had a wonderful group and I want to thank everyone that attended our 57 reunion. My group that participated putting this reunion together I want to thank each and everyone. I will name them by names: Charles Libretto, Paul Schumacher, Dr. Gross. My committee that started was Richard Boudouy with our blessing Richard rest in peace. Now my job was locating someone to assist me as it turned out a very dear friend for many years said, "yes I will do my best," well Jack Collier and his lovely wife Nadine pitched in with me Pete Radichio and my right hand my lovely wife Margie. I must say this group did a fantastic job from beginning to end. Thank you. Thank you.

Dan Quinn had a plaque given to him accepted by Charles Libretto, and he saw to it Dan received it for the years he put into the 9th Div. Assoc. You must remember Dan had a side kick also, his lovely wife Marie as we sent her by Federal Express a beautiful bouquet of silk flowers for all the work she did for Dan. For you two beautiful people the 9th Div. thanking you for keeping us together. Thanks again Dan and Marie.

I didn't get report of the finances but I do know everybody got paid and I know we will be giving money to the treasurer. We are in the BLACK!

The high school students did a great job. The honor guards from the American Legion including the Sergeant that played taps, were great.

I don't want to forget the following names. The youngest 1st Sgt. in the Army of the United States also went as high as Lt. Colonel. Good luck Colonel Cooley you are a great friend to all of us. The next gentleman was Al Zenka, he did the invocation. Last and not least was Joe Killen great supporter he helped me when I needed him. I hope I didn't miss anyone but Esta Libretto went for surgery came out of it like a trooper and made the reunion. God Bless, stay healthy, Adios Amigos as we hope to meet in Wocester, Mass. this October. God Bless!

God Bless America, as we will stay united!

This letter was incomplete to this point.

This is the last phase of this letter. All I want to add is the financial report from the 57th reunion isn't complete. The moment Jack receives the checks mailed out for paying bills and refunds he will have a complete paid out report and a nice looking check for our general fund when the bank book is closed.

Jack Collier and wife Nadine and my wife Margie and myself as chairman of the 57 9th Div.reunion in Pigeon Forge. We all thank you for coming and may God Bless you wherever you are.

P.S. Sorry Dan and Marie couldn't make it.

P.P.S. See you all at Lancaster, PA Amish County 2003 58th Reunion.

Sincerely

Pete A. Radichio and Margie

Jack Collier & Nadine

LANCASTER HOST DIRECTIONS

FROM LANCASTER AIRPORT:

Take 501S to 30E - Hotel is on right hand side.

FROM PHILADELPHIA:

PA turnpike west (I-76 west) to Rt. 222 south (exit 21) to Rt. 30 east. The Hotel will be on the right hand side five miles ahead of Rt. 30 east.

PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT:

Take I-95 to Rt. 322 west. Then take Rt. 322 north until you reach Rt. 1. Take Rt. 1 south to Rt. 41. Then take Rt. 41 north to 30 west. The hotel will be on the left side.

FROM BALTIMORE:

Take I-83 North to Rt. 30 east. The hotel is located approximately 40 miles on the right of Rt. 30.

FROM HARRISBURG:

Take Rt. 283 east to Rt. 30. The hotel is on the right side of Rt. 30. It is approximately 50 miles from Harrisburg.

FROM PITTSBURG:

Take the PA turnpike (I-76) east to Rt. 222 south. Take Rt. 222 south to Rt. 30 east. The hotel will be on the right side 5 miles down the road.

FROM NEW YORK:

Take the NJ turnpike (I-95) south to the PA turnpike (I-276 to I-76) west. Take that to the Rt. 222 exit (exit 21) and take it south to Rt. 30 east. The hotel will be approximately 5 miles ahead on the right side.

FROM CONNECTICUT AND BOSTON:

Take 66 WEST TO 691. Take 691 west to 64. Take 64 west to 689. Take 689 south to 287 south. Take 287 across the Tappansee bridge to 78 west. Take 78 west to south 222. Take 222 south until you come to 30 east. The hotel will be approximately 5 miles ahead on the right side.



## Taps Sounded

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

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

Edward Trzepakz

34th F.A.

Brayton Willis

E Co 39th Inf.

Lucien Lucas

B Co 39th Inf.

Arthur Euler

60th Inf.

Alex Balough

9th Med C Co

Neil Conger

Barney Tobacco

60th Hdqs.

Edith Dawson

Wife of Jim Dawson 3rd

Bn. Hq. Co 47th Inf.

Albert M. Hodge

Co 160th Inf.

Charlie Bana

47th Inf. A.T.

Curtis White

C Co 39th Inf.

Kenneth Goodfellow

Co B 9th Med.

Lester Guilford

Co B 9th Med.

George Booth

39th Inf. Cannon Co.

Hermann "Bill" Lange Col.

84th FA Bn

Joseph Taubner

B Co 47th Inf.



## 709th ORD LM Co PAT ZONA

I just got through reading the write up in the March-April Octofoil on Walter Victor. I was quite surprised to read that he is a photographer.

You see, I knew Walter when he was with the 709th Ordnance LM Co. At that time he was known around the division as a top notch small arms expert. As a matter of fact, in the time we were overseas I hardly ever saw Walter in our company area. He was always assigned to some Infantry Regiment. He was quite an ordnance expert.

I was Supply Sergeant of the 709th for close to two and a half years and rarely did I see Walter. Reading about his photography vocation came as a big pleasant surprise. It is good to read that some of the reereohelon people are still around and enjoying life.

Enclosed you will find my optimistic thoughts. Three years dues at 84 that is really optimistic.

Your contributions over so many years have been greatly appreciated by the thousands of members of the association. Keep up the good work.

## Company K 47th Infantry, 9th Division The stealth outfit of WWII

### REUNION

I am not going to be able to make it to PIGEON FORGE, but I encourage all other K PEOPLE to oil-up your walkers and wheelchairs and find out if DOLLY is absolutely REAL.

With all the OUTLET stores in the area, it might be a good idea to drive rather than fly - excess luggage fees could cost all your savings. Take a lot of pictures just in case I decide to publish another COMPANY K.

Besides the attractions in PIGEON FORGE, the area abounds in natural beauty. We spent several nights in a friend's house, built on and over the creek that runs through Gatlingburg, the sounds of the rushing water will cure the most dedicated insomniac.

### KING PEOPLE

JOE KILLACKY is still sprightly and plays golf whenever the snow permits. He came to terms with his leg problem - he won't mess with it, if it don't mess with him.

HELEN HOLMES hasn't lost a step. She is still running from pillar to post to: visit her relatives, attending recitals, taking care of 9/11 victims and all other lame and sick, go to high school reunions, and delivering surplus cash to Atlantic City.

She picked up a couple of MEDALS conferred by the State of New Jersey upon the heroes of WWII for ABOVE and BEYOND.

That GAL will be GOING when JESSIES give out.

GEORGE BASTEDO is still in good enough shape to attend his HIGH SCHOOL reunion with HELLEN, but he knows if he falters, medical help in there with TLC.

SCOOP GILLESPIE has a computer and e-mails me from time to time. I haven't heard of any new debilitating diseases but you know they are lurking. He could be having eye problems, I sent him 15 years of "JORDAN'S JOURNAL" and that is some heavy reading.

I don't know if he is going to the reunion but it is just a hill and a holler away.

LT. ARTHUR INGRAM has arisen from the ashes of war to give me a call. He has retired from the bowling business and now splits his time between a beach house on the east coast and a hacienda in the California desert. His address: 1617 Iredell Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609, Tel: (919) 833-3901.

This is just one zip code from SCOOP but as far as I know they have not conversed. I put the telephone number especially for DR. GEORGE who can now unburden his PSYCHE and SOUL for CLOSURE. What ever that is?

### WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

I am tickled to death that we have set our goals on the elimination of terrorist, but I am afraid we have already stayed too long in Afghanistan. Anyone with a smattering of history or English literature, knows that the culture, character, and national sport of the Afghans is shooting someone. Anyone, Red Coats, Russians, or Good Ole American Boys. A firearm, a little ammunition, a pipe full of hash, and they'll take out anyone - RELIGION IMMATERIAL.

As usual, most of our casualties are from the HOME FOLKS, principally, the AIR FORCE. FRIENDLY FIRE is an oxymoron of the first water. Sending in the SPECIAL FORCES in small groups made sense to me, but they sent in the 10th and 101st and you see TV pictures of soldiers carrying 200 lb. packs, struggling up a stony mountain single file. Is this the new SUPER INTELLIGENT HIGH TECH Army? Come on! Let the helicopters lift them to the top of the mountain and attack down.

My weapon of choice was NAPALM. It would not only roast the ALCADA it hits, but burn the oxygen and suffocate the rag heads in their holes. Unfortunately, they burned all of the NAPALM in Baton Rouge, a couple of years ago. WE should make some more, it works everywhere, and doesn't require pin-point accuracy. This fits the AIR FORCE skills to a T.

### VIDEO

If you would like a video of the 9th Division in WWII, essentially, a film of the highlights of the book "Seven Stars To Victory," is can be obtained from: The Scholars Book, 110 Melrich Rd., Cranbury, NJ 08512, Tel. (609) 395-6933, e-mail [books@scholarbookshelf.com](mailto:books@scholarbookshelf.com)

CATALOG #6LHNF Price: \$22

Chester H. Jordan

Continued from last page

CAPITAL FUND  
BALANCE - JUNE 1, 2001 -0-

Assets were Trans to General Fund and Account Closed on Feb. 20, 2001

MEMORIAL FUND  
BALANCE - JUNE 1, 2001 3,682.94  
Interest Earned 22.20  
3,705.14  
Trans to Gen Fund 3,705.14  
BALANCE - MAY 31, 2002 -0-  
Account Closed on June 13, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT  
Trans to Gen Fund 10,770.26  
BALANCE - MAY 31, 2002 -0-  
Amount Closed on Dec. 10, 2001

MUTUAL FUND  
CGM Mutual 719 shares @ 21.99 15,810.81  
CGM Mutual 298 shares @ 21.99 6,553.02  
22,363.83

## Reunion Report 2002

Finally all the cancelled checks came in. I am happy to say that all bills have been paid. Reminds me of Tom Boyle, one of his sayings. \$6,451.69 including the \$1,000 advance also the \$250.00 for a deposit.

I am very sorry to hear that you were unable to attend, but with all the calls from Pete you were a big part of it. It was a great reunion with all of Pete's hard work paying off. He sure was a pleasure to work with.

We had 246 attending the banquet, which I thought was very good for the price. I had 22 cancellations, however one of our great members Page Dye who had sent in for four Strip Tickets said to keep the money as the association needs it, and he is facing surgery. I am glad that there is going to be another reunion, as I do look forward to them each year. Hope you are feeling good, and give my love to Marie. Hope to see you next year.

Best Regards  
Jack A. Collier, Treasurer

## Ladies Corner

Our annual Ladies Auxiliary meeting was held on May 8, 2002 at Country Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN. 27 members and 15 guests attended the meeting.

The members approved a donation of \$500 to be sent to 9th Division Association treasurer to be used to offset expense of the Octofoil. Donations of \$200 each will be sent to VA hospitals in Fayetteville, NC, Philadelphia, PA, and Chillicothe, OH.

Pollyanna raffle was held and each person received a gift. Thirty nine ladies attended the luncheon held after the meeting.

As your president for the upcoming year, I would appreciate you sending me information that I can submit to the Octofoil for publication. Also your comments and suggestions are welcome. Let's keep in touch!

Jean Geary  
President 9th Inf. Div.  
Ladies Auxiliary



Pat De Colli, center, 9th B 15th Engs. Is shown at Pigeon Forge with 1 to 10 and Margaret Fenrant, Ernest, and Dorothy Micka, Bob and Midge Apel, John and Margaret Moore.

## NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

## Annual Memorial Day Service on Long Island

The NY Chapter held its annual Memorial Day Service at the VA National Cemetery in Farmingdale, Long Island, on Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2002. Services began at 11:00 AM.

Due to inclement weather service was held in the cemetery community room. Chapter president Marv Levy officiated with Tony Varone, chairman of protocol. Ceremony opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chapter chaplain Al Lipton gave the invocation and led the assembled in a moment of silent tribute to deceased 9th comrades. Prez Levy gave a short address remembering the 9thmen who did not live to enjoy the freedoms they gave their lives for, and showing the list he had with names of many comrades buried in this local VA cemetery. Varone also spoke eloquently and poignantly of those who did not come home from the war. Al Zenka read from a printed tome written by Reverend Lynch. With no other remarks service ended at 11:20 AM.

## Meeting and Luncheon

A short meeting followed the memorial service. Attending members agreed to suspend reading of previous meeting minutes and financial report. For those who were not able to attend, Zenka reported on the Pigeon Forge reunion, May 7-9. He stated that Pete Radichio and Jack Collier did a fine job and by all accounts the reunion was very successful. George Brown was elected National president, and Brown, Al Perna and Bob DeSandy would chair the 2003 reunion to be held in Lancaster, PA.

With no further reports or business, meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM and we went to nearby Liberty Diner for lunch.

Attending the Memorial Service and meeting were: Anton and Charlotte Dietrich (it was also Charlotte's birthday), Marv and Barbara Levy, Al Lipton, Bill Muldoon, John Tschupp, Tony Varone and Al and Genevieve Zenka.

## Friar Tuck Get-to-gether, September 9-13, 2002

For those who wish to attend the NY Area Chapter--sponsored mini-reunion at Friar Tuck, September 9-13, 2002, here is the information. Rates--Double Occupancy \$243 pp. Single Occupancy \$278 pp. Three meals daily. Stay begins with arrival for lunch on Monday to departure on Friday after breakfast. First Day gala cocktail party; Italian Theme Dinner; nightly entertainment; sports and health facilities. Reservations with \$50 deposit due by August 1, balance by August 19. Make checks payable to NY Area Chapter 9th Inf Div and send to Al Zenka at address below.

Road directions to Friar Tuck Inn: NY Thruway to Exit 20, then route 32N to Friar Tuck.

Al will be sending out an informational letter to all chapter members who attended last year's get-together. Others interested can reach Al at his address below.

After a series of knee operations, hapless Al Lipton broke his ankle and is currently in rehab. Benny Murell is being treated for colon cancer. Joe Rzesniowiecki is also battling cancer. Herminio Suarez is troubled by sciatica. Gerry Levinson is still fighting a muscular disorder. Tony Varone undergoes a hernia operation in July, and Viola will have a stress test shortly. The NY Chapter wishes our comrades and family a speedy recovery and improved health.

## Last Meeting Before Summer Hiatus

Six members of the NY Area chapter met at the 69th Rgt Armory on Friday, June 21, 2002. Meeting began at 8 PM with the usual opening ceremony. Prez/Recording Secretary Marv Levy read the minutes from the May and April meetings, and Secretary/Treasurer Al Zenka gave the financial report. General discussions followed, and since few members were present meeting was short and adjourned at 9:50 PM. Attending, not mentioned above: Joe Killen, Charlie LiBretto, Joe Maiale and Adolph Wadalavage.

## Dues Due

Attention NY Area 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. Tel. 718-479-9341. HAVE A HEALTHY AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER!

Marv Levy  
Co A 60th

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

## 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).

## 25 Years Later

## Roy Smith Serves In Father's Outfit

THU THUA, Vietnam – The young 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry medic was noticeably apprehensive as he met Brigadier General Frank L. Gunn, assistant 9th Infantry Division commander. But 20-year-old Pfc. Roy Smith's fears were quickly dispelled when Gen. Gunn shook his hand and said, "I knew your father, and I wanted to meet you."

It was 25 years since Army Technical Sergeant Dale E. Smith of Mount Vernon, Ohio, had served in Germany as a medic with the 9th Division's 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, commanded by then Col. Gunn.

As a conscientious objector, he served six months as a platoon medic, and the remainder of his World War II tour was in charge of a litter squad in the battalion aid station.

Upon learning that his son, Roy, had recently been assigned to the 9th Division and that Gen. Gunn now holds the number two post with the Old Reliables, Smith sent the general a letter renewing old acquaintances and recalling one particularly memorable event.

"I remember on one occasion when I inadvertently took my little squad through the lines into a little German village, and we had to take a whole platoon of German infantrymen prisoner in order to get out of the place," Smith recounted. "Captain Hill, commanding officer of Echo Company, sure was surprised when he saw us come out of the town with all those prisoners, just as he was getting ready to launch an attack to take the town and free us medics."

Smith's letter continued, "Gen. Gunn, no doubt with your tremendous burden of command, you wouldn't remember me. But I want to say that I have always been proud to have been an Old Reliable with the Ninth Division."

"We were the best then," said Smith, "and I believe the 9th is just as good now."

Gen. Gunn, however, did remember the brave teen-aged medic from his World War II command. When informed that the man's son is now serving with the 9th Division, Gunn made a personal trip to the company's temporary command post at Thu Thua.

After greeting Smith, Gen. Gunn recalled the World War II incident. "I'll never forget the look on your father's face when he came back with that platoon," he told Smith. "If you're going to try something like that, be sure you get some help. When I leave here, I'm going to write to your father and I want to tell him I'm looking out for you."

Although Smith has not captured any enemy strongholds, he has seen his share of the fighting, the wounds and the occasional frustration that characterizes the medic's job.

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

Dear Dan and Marie:

Time to get our dates and put them on the calendar.

The first is our annual picnic and memorial service on Saturday, August 10, 2002 at Art and Mary Doering's home 6300 Whitneyville Rd. SE, Alto, Michigan, phone 616-868-6978.

Members bring a dish to pass and snacks. Plan to arrive early. We will eat at 12:30 PM. We will break for our annual memorial service, a very special occasion, remembering those who have gone before us. We will name all who have passed away during the past year.

In news from Elmer Wagner, we had a fine showing at the convention, namely Elmer, Roger Aalsgard, and Tom Hatton. Those I have heard from who could not attend were Tom and Carol Saunders who aged aunt has come to live with them.

The next item is our Angola get-together, with the Illinois Chapter and other members in the area. The date is October 15 and 16 at the Ramada Inn, 3855 N. State Road, Angola, IN 46703. Check in time is 2 PM. The phone number is 1-877-965-5341. When you make your own reservation, mention the Ninth Division to get the discounted room rate, \$62 plus 8% tax. You must make reservations by October 10. You will need a credit card or, if mailing a check, one night's deposit. Bring your favorite snacks and refreshments.

Our annual Christmas party will be held Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI. We must have a head count by Dec. 8. Please call Elmer Wagner at 1-989-686-0506 or me, Ed Wisniewski, at 1-810-367-3496.

When you get to the Bavarian Inn, go to a reservation desk and ask what room we are in. There is an elevator to all floors. No need to walk the stairs. Our last year's price was \$15.50 plus 6% tax plus 15% tip.

Yours in comradeship  
Edwin Wisniewski  
Secretary, Michigan Chapter

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

## Texas &amp; Greater Southwest Chapter

The Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter held its meeting in Salado, Texas at the Stagecoach Inn, March 15, 2002.

Herb Stern, Chapter President, asked for minutes from the previous meeting. Ernie Botella reported the Chapter had a current balance of \$655.54, after expenses for flowers, the Memorial Fund and postage.

We learned of the passing of Sammie Goodwin. We had extended an invitation to Mrs. Goodwin and Mrs. Inzer to attend the meeting. Even though they could not be with us, Mrs. Ken Meyer and daughter Nancy were able to join us for dinner on March 14, 2002.

At the business meeting on March 15, 2000, Commander Frank Cortez represented and spoke on behalf of the Military Order of The Purple Heart. Mr. Cortez is an administrator of the Veteran's Administration and also discussed various benefits for which Ninth members are eligible.

Attending their first Chapter meeting were John W. Arnold and Manuel Castillo. Manuel related the considerable assistance he had received from the Purple Heart association in increasing his Veteran's disability.

Final plans have been made for Sam Burns to host one of his famous Texas barbecues on October 10, in a covered pavilion at the city park in Burleson, TX. Motel accommodations will be available at the 5 Star Inn on I-35 south of Burleson. Other motel facilities will also be available.

Herb Stern, with the help of Jack Blann, have now published the second Newsletter which is mailed to all eligible chapter members. Those not receiving the Newsletter are urged to contact Herb Stern, 12427 Old Oak Drive, Houston, TX 77024.

In attendance at the March 15, 2002 meeting were: J.B. Arnold, M/M Jack Blann, M/M Ernie Botella, Manuel Costello, M/M John Miller, Charles Newton, Gordon Schneider, and M/M Herb Stern.

Herb Stern urged chapter members to provide him with information, such as illnesses or deaths of members and spouses, as well as stories that would be of interest to the membership.

With the grateful assistance of Ray Inzer's widow, Cokie, we assembled his military history and some of his many civic contributions made after his retirement. Rising from Sergeant in the National Guard, to full Colonel was a remarkable achievement.

Sincerely  
Gordon A. Schneider

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

## FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

**ST. AUGUSTINE OR PORT ST. LUCIE?:** The Florida Chapter Reunion committee has not finalized a hotel contract at either of these two locations in order to inform our membership of the dates for the Chapter's Fall meeting. All dues paying members will be notified by mail at least 5 weeks before the opening date, stayed tuned.

**PIGEON FORGE NATIONAL REUNION:** Pete Radichio and his Reunion Committee did an excellent job co-ordinating the May 7 to 9th National Reunion. Seventeen members of the Florida Chapter attended. The Dixie Stampede Show was spectacular as well as the service at the dinner. One of the bright features of Pigeon Forge is the markings of their traffic lights. They are numbered so that directions to a hotel, attraction etc. were made simple by that directions to a hotel, attraction etc. were made simple by the reference of the traffic light to the destination place. Because of the large number of members who attended this reunion, it was necessary to billet the troops into 3 different hotels but that didn't create too great a problem. A well deserved "Thank You" to Pete, Marge, Jack Collier, Al Zenka, Al and Felice Perna and all the others who worked very hard to insure the success of this reunion.

**THE SMOKEY MTS:** One of the highlights traveling to Pigeon Forge, was the scenic trip through the Smokey Mountains. Audrey and Emil De Donato started out from their Florida home at 8:10 on Sunday morning on May 5th. They made it to the foot hills of the Smokey Mts. Just before dark. Rather than chance driving through the mountains after darkness, they chose to stay at the DILLARD HOUSE in Dillard, NC. The Dillard property is an exclusive complex of buildings that includes swimming pools; tennis courts; a fishing pond; golfing; gift shop, horse riding stables; an animal petting zoo; a fine restaurant and lodging of different price categories. The Dillard House Restaurant serves a one price dinner, no menus, enough delicious food to eat for at least two days. The De Donato's enjoyed the beautiful scenic drive going through the Smokey Mountains arriving a day earlier in Pigeon Forge and enjoyed meeting many old friends again.

**DUES REMINDER NOTICES:** On June 20, 2002, 52 Dues Reminder notices were sent out to all members who had fallen back on their Florida Chapter yearly dues. There are 108 members listed on the roster. Out of the 52 Dues Reminder notices that were sent out, 15 members signed up for 3 years, 2 for one year, 2 for Lifetime Membership, 8 mailings were returned undelivered while two members asked to be dropped from the roster. (These figures are as of July 12, 2002. Cut-off date for members to respond is Sept. 15, 2002 at which time a new membership roster will go into production). The Dues Reminder notice that was sent out contained three choices: (1) to pay your dues (2) whether you are financially unable to pay and (3) if you do need in order to publish a new Membership Roster. To those of you who have not answered your notice, please send word to Emil J. De Donato, 3650 S.W. Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431, Phone: 352-489-4070 immediately. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. A 23 cent postcard will do just fine.

### ROSTER UPDATE

Please make the following additions and changes to your copy of the roster: Henry Endy, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Herbert L. Frank, [REDACTED] (new member). E. Marlin Mellinger, new area phone code: 7 [REDACTED]. Wilbur Dodd and Ray Gilbert wish to be removed from roster.

### MAIL RETURNED UNKNOWN

Russell Bassell, Jordan Bierman, Clyde Bobbitt, Paul Dupris, Joseph Eska, Alan Johnson, Michael Patrick, and Tom Saunders. If your name appears on this "Mail Returned" list or if anyone knows of there whereabouts, please contact Emil De Donato.

**EDWARD F. TRZEPACZ DEAD AT 82:** Eddie Trzepacz passed away on March 1, 2002 in Jacksonville, FL where he was a resident for the past 55 years. He served with the 34th Field Artillery during the African Sicilian Campaigns and took part in the Normandy invasion. Eddie was preceded in death by his wife Alma in 1992. Survivors include his sister, Stephanie Ludklewicz of New Jersey and a brother, Joseph Trzepszc of California. A memorial service was held on April 10, 2002 in the chapel of Arlington Park Funeral Home, Jacksonville, FL with the Rev. Albert Hicks officiating.

**CHARLES W. BANAS DIES:** His daughter Julia wrote saying her father passed away on May 29, 2002 after a long illness. Sgt. Banas served with Anti-Tank Co. of the 47th Infantry. Before Charles passed away, he wanted each of his three children to have a 9th Infantry Division Emblem Pin as a remembrance of him. This was accomplished by his daughter who ordered them from the Florida Chapter. A framed "IN MEMORIAM" plaque was prepared by Emil De Donato and sent to the family. It now hangs next to the wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baras. Our condolences go out to all member of his family.

### 47th Inf. Co. M JOHN B. KNIGHT

Enclosed please find a donation in loving memory of Dewey Seddons, who passed away on March 16, 2002 at the age of 79. He resided in Richmond, VA.

I became acquainted with Dewey at Fort Bragg and he became our #1 Machine Gunner in Co.-M - 47th Inf.

At El Gruter, where Charles Goldhart and Sam Melozzo were K.I.A. Dewey was there and wound up with shrapnel in his finger. Later on a jeep was knocked out by enemy fire and Dewey and Joe Kerns were looking the situation over, when the Germans sent in another barrage. Kerns was severely wounded and Dewey escaped unscathed (9 lives) while we were dug in at El Guitar, Dewey would crawl out at night and collect about 8 or ten canteens and fill them with water from a water hole he had discovered.

Dewey probably had grooves in his shoulders from the 51 lb. Tri-Pod he carried through the Atlas Mountains and Sicily.

At Basingstoke he was transferred to the Engineers because of his mechanical abilities, that meant that we lost our #1 Machine Gunner. He was replaced by Hank Via, who was later K.I.A. on the Contentise Penninsula, where the gun was knocked out. Had Dewey not been transferred, it would have been him instead of Hank (9 lives).

After War II, Dewey took a British bride from Basingstokes. They returned to the states and lived happily ever after. What Rommel failed to do, cancer prevailed. "Rest in Peace, Dewey."

**SICK CALL:** Gail Wright Wilder, daughter of Donald Wright wrote a note saying that her father Don has Alzheimer's but he is still very interested in the 9th Infantry Division Association. A Life Member check was included with her note. Our prayers are needed for Don to cope and to recover from this disease.

**9th DIVISION EMBLEM PINS:** Because of the overwhelming demand for these attractive designed 9th Infantry Division Emblem pins, our Chapter President, Chuck Van Der Poel, requested a re-order. We now have a quantity on hand. They are priced at \$8.00 each plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. The first new 10 orders received will receive one attractive embroidered "Iron-On" patch

FREE! Send your order to Emil J. De Donato, Treasurer. FL Chapter 9th Inf. Div. Assn., 3 [REDACTED]

### WOMEN AUXILIARY NEWS

**ANN ELICHO** who now resides at 504 Momosa Dr., Whiting, NJ 08759 would love to hear from members of the Women's Auxiliary, especially at this time since the loss of her husband John who passed away on November 21, 2001. They planned to attend the National Reunion in Pigeon Forge but it was not to be. Please drop Ann a note, she will appreciate hearing from you. Bertha Carson lives in Whiting, NJ too. It was at a supermarket where both ladies met a few months ago where Bertha learned about the death of Ann's husband John. Bertha Carson lives at [REDACTED]

Emil J. De Donato

## RAY L. INZER, COLONEL, USA (Ret.)

On December 19th, 2001, Col. Inzer passed away in Abilene, Texas. Representing the Division Association at the services were Rev. Dr. W.M. Lynch of Dallas, who spoke at the service, and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Botella of San Antonio, Texas.

Ray Inzer began his Federal Service when his unit in the Michigan National Guard, 125th Infantry, was sent to Louisiana maneuvers. Serving as a sergeant, he applied to OCS and graduated in early 1942. His initial assignment was to the 2nd Battalion of the 47th Inf. He landed in Safi. On March 28, 1943, near El Guettar, he took over command of Co. H. when Captain Spaulding, C.O. was reported missing.

He landed with Co. H in Palermo, Sicily. At the conclusion of the Sicilian Campaign, he embarked on November 11, 1943, with the 9th to England.

Landing with Co. H, 47th Inf. at Utah Beach on June 11, 1944, he saw action until he was wounded on August 3, 1944, near LeMotel, in Normandy. Capt. Inzer was evacuated to the 122nd General Hospital in Kington, England. There he met his future wife, Cokie, who nursed him back to health.

Ray returned to the 47th in early December, 1944, where he served as Regimental XO and C.O. of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battalions when their CO's were ill or wounded.

On February 2, 1945, he was again wounded and evacuated to Paris. He rejoined the 47th in time to cross the Rhine at Remagen. In the meantime he had been promoted to Major.

When Lt./Col. Tanner was wounded on April 21, 1945, Ray was named C.O. of the 3rd Battalion. Promoted to Lt./Col., he served with the 3rd until returning to the States in June, 1946. On June 28th, 1946, he and Cokie were married.

Ray requested reassignment to Germany and returned in October, 1946, assigned to the Dachau War Crimes Enclosure.

In January 1951, he was assigned to the Command and General Staff College, at Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

In January, 1952, he was assigned as advisor to the General of the 75th Nationalist Chinese Army in Formosa.

Returning to the States in July, 1953, he was assigned to the General Staff (Logistics) at the Pentagon for four years.

Now a Full Colonel, he was assigned in 1957 with Fourth Army at Ft. Sam Houston (G-4) until he retired in August, 1960.

During his service with the 9th, in eight Campaigns, he was awarded the Silver Star with Cluster, the Purple Heart with Cluster, the Bronze Star with Cluster, the Air Medal, and the French and Belgian Fourregere.

W.M. Lynch and Ernest Botella who served under Ray in Normandy remember him as an officer who looked after and was concerned about the men under his command.

After retirement, Ray completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He became an Asst. Professor of Government and Business at Christian University. Active in Kiwanis and a Volunteer in Meals on Wheels, he continued to serve his community for the remainder of his life.

### 39th Inf E Co DALE SMITH

Now it has been 57 years since we met the Russians at the Elbe River. It's wonderful that we still have so many of our great buddies to remember those grand and awful days.

I wish to say hello to Larry Faulkner, Kenneth Hill, Willie Goldsmith, Ward Payne, Gabriel Davila, Kieth Laur, Willard Blair (Roberts) and all the great E Co. 39th buddies we have.

I am sending a news copy about BG. Frank Gunn, my son Roy Smith, and myself. I would be pleased to share this story with all of our Old Reliable readers if you care to print it in the Octofoil.

I regret that I have run behind with my dues. Please find enclosed a check for three more years. Thank You.



## MAIL CALL

Potshots and other Observations  
From the Reunion Dugout

Good Morning World and thank you Lord for allowing my good buddies and me to get together once more for the 57th Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. We met in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. And by mutual agreement with the local sheriff; if we didn't bother him, then he wouldn't bother us. Pigeon Forge is a "dry town" with no alcoholic beverages for sale.

The tricky "Old Reliables" easily found the way around that law. But if the sheriff had have staged a drug raid, he would have hit a jackpot because all of us are on one pill or another. Some take as many as six different pills a day. Seems like the main topic of conversation centers on which medication we're taking. The important thing is that we're still here, so we'll keep on taking those pills for as long as they can do the job.

I walked into the lobby and saw Ira Moser (L-47<sup>th</sup>) sitting there and I immediately asked in a joking way if MC was in the John or up in his room, and I was saddened to hear that the old straight shooter M.C. McKnight (Cannon-47th) had had a stroke last year and he doesn't get around much any more. I'm sure that he would welcome a note or a card of encouragement if you sent it to - 936 Rock Spring Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27105.

The S.S. Louis Pasteur (chapter-to-be) has five men who sailed into the Ninth Infantry Division from her. (A ship is always a female even if it has a man's name). All we need is to find another 19 and we have it made. Funny thing is that so far everyone is from the 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry and was at the reunion. Our present president George Brown (A-47), "Brazos Bill" Crain (B-47), Allen J. Kelley and yours truly (both G-47), and Joe Maiale (I-47). And thanks to the "dipped in the real tar," Charles Rochelle (F-47) another fellow traveler has been located. I don't count my fish until I get them in the boat so I'll hold his name till he's here.

I don't know about you but the "Dixie Stampede" reminded me of eating out of a mess kit with my fingers while we were chasing Jerry. The only missing items were my poncho and the rain. The mud was there. It came from the arena. At least I hope it was mud that the horses kicked up into my food.

Dick Stoltz, Henry Geary, Clarence Ray, and Ira Moser (all from L-47) were looking for Willie Muldoon and swear that next year Tony DeRobertis will make Willie an offer he can't refuse and they will all be in Lancaster for the reunion.

Mary and Charles McHinnery, Marty and John Maloney, Sadie and Joe Maiale, Janet Brown, Herb Olsen, Emma Killen and yours truly, all went to church at the right time to find that Ascension Thursday had been moved to Sunday. I hope that we all get recognition for a good try from where it counts.

All in all, it was a good reunion. If more of the regular attendees had been there it would have been almost perfect. But wondering about who was missing and praying that their absence will be temporary does detract from the full "happy family" feeling. If you were not there, believe me, you were missed.

We, the entire Association, owe some people our thanks for extending themselves and jumping in to pick up the slack where it was needed. Nadine and Jack Collier (C-47) stepped up after the demise of Dick Boudouy (M-47) and handled the strip tickets admirably. They accepted without complaining that their time for socializing had been cut to almost nothing.

Marge and Pete Radichio (B-9<sup>th</sup> Medics) took the task of overseeing every event very seriously so that nothing went awry. There were a few minor individual problems that were ironed out "Toot Suite" by Pete.

The Ladies Auxiliary deserves a special thank you for their unselfish devotion and the donations that they make year after year almost without fanfare or recognition. This year their table was in a spot that was not well noticed, and to be at that table hour after hour was indeed a chore. Thank you, ladies, from the bottom of our hearts.

In their search for a reunion site for 2003, the Board of Governors, sometimes individually, sometimes, collectively, coaxed and cajoled, and finally drafted Bob DeSandy (F-47) to seek and search for a site near Fort Bragg, where the Ninth got started almost 62 years ago. Being the type that he is, Bob followed thru and accomplished his mission. He got the hotel, the dates, the prices, and some of the perks. He laid the groundwork for a reunion. The board eventually selected another site (Lancaster, PA) to hold the reunion in 2003. But, I believe that Bob DeSandy should be publicly complimented for his 'esprit de corps.'

On another subject, I'm wondering where Chuck Van der Poel (I-60) was on the day that he turned seventeen. It was January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1945. He has the distinction of being the youngest living member of our association. "Lucky" Chuck cashed in on the 50/50 raffle that was run by the "good Doctor."

Dear Dan,

Another 15th Division Reunion behind us and time to start hearing of the pros and cons of the last reunion, which quite a few lads seem to have an interest in and as promised at the reunion by the Misc. Committee we would ask you to use some space in the "Octofoil" to follow, what suggestions they have, good bad or otherwise to either write the Octofoil or President in the future of the organization, no one seems to disagree it's a matter that should have been taken care of a long time ago but it seems we were all afraid to face it, what is the association to do in the up coming years, nobody has to tell anyone how our ranks are thinning, so in the next few issues of the "Octofoil," use up some space and see if you can get some lads to write in their suggestions, good or bad, all will be considered and can get an idea if the association exists of we say - farewell, should be a very interesting meeting up in Worcester when the Bd Governors next meet but as said, we'll get an idea of what the membership is asking so Dan can use some space to encourage the lads to write as I said good or bad or otherwise - we will listen.

Right after the last reunion I spent a few days in the hospital, returned Friday evening, Monday in the hospital, it was scheduled that way, am ok now, saw the doctor a few days ago he said I can go chasing gals again.

Heard from the grapevine you were grounded for awhile. See Dan you don't listen - don't get old - do say hello to Marie.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Yours,

Adolph J. Wadalavage  
[Redacted] St.

E. Co. 39th  
KENNETH W. HILL  
[Redacted]

Just in case you haven't been advised, Brayton Willis "E" Company 39th Inf, passed away recently. The enclosed check to the Memorial Fund is in his memory and in memory of Russell Snelling, also of "E" Company, 39th.

I drove 1250 miles and return to Pigeon Forge. Not too bad, as the trip was broken by a stop in Dallas to visit my son. I enjoyed the reunion but would be better in one place.

There were quite a few early birds at the reunion. So much so that we could have held a good meeting the day before the official opening of the reunion. These three-day reunions seem to fly by with lightening speed, or maybe I've got so much gabbing piled up that it takes more than three days to unload. Did I have a good time and enjoy myself? You better believe I did. Stay well and make plans for Lancaster, PA. I'll see you there.

All of the BEST to All of the BEST

\*\*\* GOD BLESS AMERICA \*\*\*  
HAPPY 226<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, UNCLE SAM

47th Inf B Co  
AL FEDER  
[Redacted]

This past May, my wife and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on a long planned trip to France. Prior to joining our tour, we took a side trip to Normandy, which proved to be very emotional. It was strange after 58 years to return to the beaches where we originally landed. We saw both Omaha and Utah. Together with the unforgettable sight of the American Cemetery, I paid my respects to my fallen comrades, as well as all the others, including my favorite cousin, whose plane was shot down on his 23rd mission. It was an experience my wife and I will never forget.

Recently I've been in touch with Larry Vinci, who I haven't seen in 58 years. Larry joined us in the Huertgen Forest and was taken down during the Remagen Battle. He rejoined B. Co. and spent the last months with us in Dachau. After 58 years we had a wonderful reunion at my home, when he visited with his son-in-law. Our memories were as sharp as ever. We will keep in contact via E-Mail and the phone.

If anyone is interested in contacting me, my e-mail # is [EA525@MSN.COM](mailto:EA525@MSN.COM).

60th Inf K Co  
JAMES F. HART JR.  
[Redacted]

Once again receiving the Octofoil was a reminder that I owed dues for 2002. Enclosed is my check for \$10.00.

It was great to see a new poem from Joe Rappozini. We were both in Co. K. 60th in Normandy. It is sort of amazing to see how many of us are still around. We all have been blessed.

It was also good to read Pat Williamson's letter. I remember he and "Slick" back in the Normandy days. I didn't last too long as I took a hit night before the breakout. Came back and took another in almost the same spot in my left leg as we were on our way to the Swammerland Dam in Germany.

They were great years and I was so fortunate to be associated with some of the greatest guys in the service.

Dan, I think I had better sign off before you go nuts trying to read this. Hope you and your good wife have a great year.

Sincerely,

Joe Killen, G-47

THE OCTOFOIL  
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[Redacted]

"F" Co. 60th Inf.  
JOHN E. SANSONE  
[Redacted]

Received a phone call a few weeks ago from a comrade in arms' a man named Mr. Tomar, asking if I knew a Joe Tomar, as he is his cousin. I said yes I did. He wanted to know how Joe got killed, because after 57 years, they were bringing his body back home, to rest in the family lot. So I told him how Joe was killed. On June 14th, fourteen days after D-Day on Utah Beach "F" Company was moving towards Orglandes to cut the peninsula off from the Germans. Joe was a bazooka man, he moved out on the road with an amo bearer who was about five yards away. When Joe saw the tanks coming towards him on the road, he tried and tried to fire his bazooka and it wouldn't fire, it jammed or the batteries in the bazooka were dead. The tanks were coming too fast, and Joe couldn't get out of the way quick enough and the tanks ran over him. This is what I told his cousin... he said he would look me up some day to talk more about Joe.

Dan this is one phone call I never expected. I hope and pray that what's left of "F" Company and the Division has another great year.

I thank you for the outstanding job you've done, and God bless.

69th Inf 2nd Bn  
WYETT COLCLASURE  
[Redacted]

Times are changing; my bride of 61 years is in a nursing home and I moved into an apartment.

Time to pay dues and change address.

On April 8, 1943, the day an 88 found me, I was returning 2 Bn 60th C.P. from taking a 2nd Lt Corp to his company C.O. Capt. Barnwell. On the way back was caught in an 88 barrage at 3rd Bn C.P.

I owe my survival to Ed Lusk, I was out of it. Thanks Ed!

I will be 90 on Nov. 8th, anniversary of our landing in N. Africa.

Until next time.

Deadline for next issue Oct. 20th