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9th Infantry Division Association

11-1-2002

The Octofoil, November/December 2002

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087 NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume XLXXIII Number 4, Nov., Dec. 2002

MINUTES OF THE 198TH BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING HELD ON 19 OCT. 2002 AT THE HOLIDAY INN, WORCESTER, MA

President George Brown called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM and the assembled members stood for the recital of our "Pledge of Allegiance" to two small table mounted flags supplied by two of the members. The body remained standing for a moment of silence as a show of respect for the deceased members of our Division and our Association.

A roll call was taken which showed that half of the fourteen members of the Board were present, and four of the seven elected officers were present. In the absence of Secretary Dan Quinn, the Secretarial duties were handled by Treasurer Joseph Killen, who read the minutes of the most recent Board of Governors meeting, the 197th, which was held in Pigeon Forge, TN in May of 2002. As there were no corrections to be made, a motion to accept was made by Al Perna and seconded by Herb Olsen. Killen then switched hats and in the role of Treasurer read the "Interim Financial Report," copies of which had been distributed to all of the members present prior to the reading. Pat DeColli made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Adolph Wadalavage. Both the reading of the minutes and the financial report were accepted as read and the secretary is instructed to put them in the records.

As both Peter Radichio and Jack Collier were not present the final report of the 2002 reunion could not be made. Al Perna then reported on the 2003 reunion to be held in Lancaster, PA. Perna informed the body that some members are registering with the hotel and not ordering strip tickets; while others were ordering strip tickets and not registering with the hotel. He will have to compare the hotel's list with his to find who did not contact both him and the hotel; and then call to remind those people. Seating is limited for the dinner show and late ticket applicants will be seated for the following afternoon show. Perna said that he reserved only 50 rooms at the onset and carefully increased that number so that at the present time he has 125 rooms reserved; all of which points to a successful reunion. He cautioned all members present to send their money in if they have not done so already.

In order to bring the membership on the Board of Governors up to the usual quota of 15 men, Ed Gill of Somers Point, New Jersey was chosen and elected to fill the balance of the term left vacant by the resignation of a previous Board member. He will serve on the Board through the first Board meeting at the 2004 reunion.

A general discussion of a variety of topics followed. Dave Heller introduced the obituary of Jack Maher, later known as Brother Sebastian and passed that item around the table. Jack Blann stated that his daughter will attend every reunion henceforth and wishes to establish a "Sons and Daughters of the Ninth Infantry Division Association" group with the offspring of our members. She will try to coordinate with them by telephone or e-Mail. Joe Killen announced that he has advertised the Lancaster reunion on the web pages of the Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, also on www.military.com and www.oldreliable.org/; anywhere that can be reached by men who have access to a computer and are unaware of our existence. If not by them, then perhaps by their children. George Brown informed the body that the 47th Infantry Regiment group would hold a reunion for all former members of the regiment, regardless of when they served, in April in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Also under discussion were possible locations for the 2004 reunion and which chapter will assume responsibility for the conduct of that reunion. Nothing positive was determined at this time, although somewhere in the Mid-Atlantic States was agreeable to the body before the issue was tabled for further study.

Dave Heller made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Al Perna. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM. Present thru the entire proceedings were: President George Brown, Herb Olsen, Adolph Wadalavage, Jack Blann, Al Perna, Judge Advocate Dave Heller, 2nd Vice-President Pat DeColli, Ed Gill, and Treasurer Joe Killen. Other interested parties were: Al Ferrante, Ernie Micka, Bob Mandle, Bill Shea, and Charles McIlhenny.

Respectfully submitted,
For the Secretary by
Joe Killen, "pinch-hit" secretary

Re: Death of Jack Maher
(Brother Sebastian)
September 29, 2002
9th Div., 2nd Bn., 1941, 1942-1944

I just received news Oct. 1, 2002 announcing the death of Jack Maher.

I first met Jack in 1942 when we were both enlisted men in Officers Candidate School, Ft. Benning, GA. We graduated in July and we were assigned to the 9th Div., 2nd Bn. He went to E Co. and me to F Co.

We were on the Thomas Stone when it was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. We got off the landing craft and had to be picked by the HMS Spey. Jack was wounded at El Guettar and I lost track of him.

In 1960 his name appeared in a NY News column as a member of the Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. Post American Legion. I went to a meeting of the Post and was greeted by Jack with his usual gusto way. He insisted that I join the post. I lost sight of him again until he wrote about joining the Benedictine Order in December 2000.

Jack enlisted me into his crusade to have the 9th Div. honor the Capt. H.G. Boys-Smith of HMS Spey and his crew for their efforts on Nov. 7-8, 1942. Jack had corresponded with Boys-Smith and the crew for years. The 9th Div. issued a resolution on May 18, 2001 and sent a copy to the British Naval Attache in Washington. Satisfied? No. Jack had me attempt to have a prominent author write about the Spey incident. Two weeks ago he called to have me get the Navy League take his Spey correspondence. I have had my life enriched by my friendship with Jack. I hope he can intercede with the Lord to look the other way and let me join Jack's special infantry platoon.

I am sending copies of the obits (which you sent) and this letter to all involved.

Bill Maloney

B Co., 60th Inf.
JOHN CELLER

Just a word to let you know I'm still around at 84 and able to do the necessary chores that have to be done. Still keep in touch with my C.O. Grady Holman and a few others.

I am enclosing dues for next three years.

I want to keep the Octofoil coming.

Keep up the good work and stay healthy.

Lancaster PA Awaits 9th Div. Reunion

To all good members of the 9th I want to thank all of you who reserved your rooms at the Lancaster Host Hotel. I would also like to thank all that sent in their strip ticket money to me. We have had a good response so far. It has slackened down the last couple of weeks. We needed the cash so we could print up our program books, flowers, music. We would also like to put down a sizeable deposit for our dinner show Wednesday night. I have stated before in the last Octofoil that if you make your room reservations early you have a better chance to get the best room you desire. Remember you could get all your money refunded within 48 hours of the convention. This also holds true with your strip ticket money.

I have also stated that if there is any member short of cash just write me Al Perna, 2642 S. Juniper St., Philadelphia, PA 19148 and we will make sure we will answer your request. This will be held in the strictest confidence. No one will know.

A couple of weeks ago we were invited to attend the mini reunion by Al Zenka. It was held at Friar Tuck in the Catskills. We had a ball. We gave out brochures of our next convention in Lancaster.

Last week the four of us went to the hotel to check on a few things. Charles and Easter Libretto, Felice and I. We took a ride to check out the Rainbow Theater. We had dinner and stayed to see the slew. We were quite pleased with both.

By the way when we were at Friar Tuck it was a fun time. We saw good shows every night and one night we had audience participation. We had some members singing but the highlight of the evening was when Frank Graziani got up on the stage telling jokes. He had us in stitches. He pulled a Bob Hope on us. Frank you had better get your material together because we are going to call on you to do the same for the entire crowd at the next convention.

By the way Al Zenka had some work done on his throat. Thank God he came a couple of days late, but in very good spirits. When I called Dan Quinn a couple of days ago. Marie told me he was in the hospital recovering from pneumonia, but they had to check out some other things. We wish you well Dan and Al.

If anyone was confused by the price it is \$213.75 per person for two in a room. It is cheaper if there are three or four in a room.

The time is getting short less then six months.

We went to Worster, Mass. this past weekend, we had a very nice turnout. With the passing of Tom, Fran and Ron it was left up to Herb and Pauline Olsen. They did a remarkable job. Herb said he will continue to do the same next year and as long as he can. We will all look forward to it next year. Our thanks go out to both of you.

Al Perna

\$75 Per Person

Strip Tickets

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, Albert Perna, 2642 So. Juniper St., Philadelphia, PA 19148.

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

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.
10 Northlawn Ct.

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

2004

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

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

Street Address.....

I was a member of:

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

I wish to sign up for the following:

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

Sustaining Member.....

Donation Memorial.....

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

Life Membership.....\$75.00

Ladies Auxillary Member.....\$30.00

Decals.....50 each

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

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

LANCASTER HOST DIRECTIONS

FROM LANCASTER AIRPORT:

Take 501S to 30 E - 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 on Rt. 30 east.

PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT:

Take I-95 south 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 PITTSBURGH:

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.

NEW YORK:

Take the N.J. turnpike (I-95) south to the Pa turnpike (I-76) west. Take that to the Rt. 222 exit (exit 21) and take it south the 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 Tappan zee 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:"*

TAPS SOUNDED

Glenn Smith
Co. K. 47th Inf.
Robert Hulslander
Co. L 47th Inf.
Joseph Mowery
9th M.P.
Robert Perron
Harold Klein
39th Inf.
William Channell
Steve Salvi
Bernie English
1 Co. 47th Inf.
Irving Feinberg
47th Inf Hqs., 2nd BN
Patricia Merrill
Wife of Dwight Merrill, 15th
Keith McLean
B Co., 746 Tank BN
George Perkins
Hq. Co. 15 Engrs.
Joseph Eska
Co. M., 60 Inf.



MICHIGAN CHAPTER

I just got word that Roger Alsgaard had a mild heart attack last week. Spent four days in the hospital seems to be ok now. Has a Monday appointment at the Local VA hospital.

We are going to Angola to our annual get together with the Ill. Chapter this year. Michigan is hosting the event Tues., Wed., and Thurs.

Bill Martin is still in the hospital at Royal Oak Beaumont. Lets hope he gets better soon.

Edwin W. Wisniewski
7576 Gratiot Rd.
Columbus, MI 48063

E Co., 47th
JACK. R. BLANN

Dear Dan,

It was good to her your voice on the telephone today. You don't know how much we miss you when you can't make the reunions. Glad to her you are doing fine and I look forward to seeing you in Worcester.

I have attached the announcement that my daughter Mary asked me to send to you. I am very excited that these young people want to help keep up the tradition of the 9th Infantry Division. Please print it in the next copy of The Octofoil if you have room.

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.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FL. CHAPTER REUNION UPDATE: If by some chance that you receive your copy of the OCTOFOIL before November 6, 2002, there is time enough for you to come to the Chapter Reunion. Emil & Audrey De Donato will be there on November 6th to set up the Hospitality Room. An excellent program was carefully planned and the information literature was sent out to all dues paying members on October 2nd. As we age, our ranks become thinner but not our enthusiasm. So get into your car and come on over if even for one day.

9th DIV INF EMBLEM PINS: We received an overwhelming response to our sale of these handsome pins. Veterans of the 9th as well as many family members from all parts of America ordered them. Joe Gill from Clinton, Ohio ordered two pins. Attorney David Silberberg from Memphis, Tennessee made a special phone call saying how much he enjoyed the two pins he ordered. Ann Elichko sent her order in for one pin in remembrance of her beloved husband. John and his wife Ann attended our Chapter Reunions for many years before moving to New Jersey. Lucy Veno of Ashland, Wisconsin ordered a total of three pins so that other members of her family would have a remembrance of their father who fought with the 9th Division.

Approximately 100 Emblem Pins have been purchased by members and/or their families. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who ordered and received this pin. A lot of work went into the ordering, packaging and mailing of this program but it was worth the effort knowing how much people appreciated receiving a treasure that will last a lifetime. We have others...just drop a note and a check for \$9.00 for each pin and send it to Emil J. De Donato, 3650 S W Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431.

DUES RESPONSE PROGRAM: On June 10, 2002, the Treasurer's office sent out 52 dues delinquent notices. A real positive response was received. Here are the statistics: 30 members paid dues of 1, 3, 5 years & Life, 12 were delinquent or chose not to belong, 5 mail returned (no fwd address), 3 moved out of state, 2 deceased.

We appreciate this wonderful response. Dues are one of the main sources that keep the Florida Chapter viable. Other sources include: sale of different items; 50/50 chances sold at the reunions; discounts received during reunions; donations, etc. We will honor and accept the wishes of those members who chose either to "not to belong or have not paid their dues." However, please permit this writer to make the following remarks: A member who signs up for \$13.00 for three years Chapter dues comes out to .01187 cents per day...just a fraction of over a penny a day.

CHAPTER NEWS WANTED

Please send any news concerning Florida Chapter members to me. Thank you.

Emil J. De Donato

NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

First Meeting since Summer Hiatus

On Friday evening, September 20, 2002, six members of the NY Chapter met at the 69th Regt. Armory for the first fall meeting after the summer recess. Attending members were: Marty Gross, Ed Harris, Charlie LiBretto, Joe Rzesniowiecki, Adolph Wadalavage and yours truly Marv Levy.

Prez Levy opened the meeting at 8 PM with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. A moment of silence was observed for our departed 9th comrades.

Minutes of the June meeting and the Financial report were read by the president and accepted by the assembled. (Treasurer Al Zenka was unable to attend personally to deliver the financial report.)

There was no correspondence to read.

Next order of business was a report on the Mini-Reunion at Friar Tuck on September 9-11, 2002. Twenty eight people attended. Marty Gross noted that most had a good time at the get-together, adding that Charlie LiBretto was the worst Bacci player of the group—but he was improving.

Gross also noted that after next month's October meeting he would be moving to Florida permanently.

LiBretto, and wife Esta, who are helping the reunion committee of the upcoming Lancaster reunion in April, 2003, reported that reservations are coming in steadily.

Gross and Adolph Wadalavage intended to go to the Worcester Memorial in October.

Wadalavage notified us that the American Legion would no longer dispose of old U.S. flags by burning. Flags will now be disposed of at VA National cemeteries. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

No October Meeting

Due to last minute illness of the chapter President and Treasurer, and other members, remaining regular attending members were notified that there would be no October meeting. We will meet in November when nominations for 2003 NY Chapter officers will be held.

Chapter news reaching this scribe since cancellation of October meeting is reported herewith: Information was received that member Jack Maher, who became a monk many years ago died at his monastery on September 23, 2002. The NY Chapter offers its sincerest condolences to his family.

Dan Quinn was recuperating from pneumonia. Al Zenka is undergoing chemotherapy cancer treatment after lump removal from his neck. Your reporter's wife Barbara is scheduled to have hip replacement surgery in November.

On a happier note, Tony Varone, who had hernia surgery this summer and his wife Viola, who had a stress test, was flown to Australia by his son, Michael for three weeks R+R.

Marv Levy
Co A 60th

The Illinois Chapter News

We've missed a few issues of the Octofoil but it's time to get back in the news, what little there is.

We enjoyed the Reunion in Pigeon Forge this past year. It was a pleasant drive to Tennessee and we were happy to see some of our friends. The Dixie Stampede Show was excellent and we thoroughly enjoyed it. The Memorial Service was very moving. We were disappointed in the fact that we had to go to another hotel for the service as well as the banquet. Lord willing, we look forward to Lancaster next year.

In July we met at the Gaertner's in Wisconsin for our annual cookout. We had a good turnout and plenty of food. The weather was perfect as were the hosts. We were all treated with gifts for Christmas in July.

We are sorry to report the death of Muriel Gray, wife of the late Capt. Lewis Gray, Hdq. Btry., 60th FA. Muriel suffered a stroke and passed away on September 25, 2002. We were unable to attend the wake as we were out of town, but the Heller's went and the Anderson's attended the burial.

We heard from the Clarks recently. They have now moved back to the Chicagoland Area. Paul is to be transferred to an Illinois VA Hospital, no new address yet. Lorraine suffered a stroke earlier this year and is improving.

Next week we will be attending the Mini Reunion in Angola, Indiana with the Michigan Chapter hosting this year. We are hoping for a good turnout so we can continue to meet next year in Angola.

Best wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Belmonte

Tribute to Alonzo Trent Palmer, Jr. Co. I 39th

Palmer was a veteran of World War II in Europe and was one of the few who celebrated both VE Day and VJ Day in major cities. On VE Day, he was in London following hospitalization there and on VJ Day he was in Paris on his way home.

When the war began, he was a student at Louisiana State University and in ROTC. Nearly 150 ROTC members at LSU were enlisted while still in college and went on to Officer Candidate School. Palmer went to Ft. Benning. Upon completion of OCS and as a new Lieutenant in October of 1943, he was sent to the 78th Division at Camp Butner. In June of 1944, he went to Europe on the Queen Elizabeth- the same ship that transported the Glenn Miller Band. He was assigned to Company I, 39th Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division as a Platoon Leader in France in July of that year. In August, he was wounded by mortar fire near St. Lo and was hospitalized.

Palmer rejoined I Company in September 1944 in Belgium. In Germany, he was involved in the Hurtgen Forest, the Bulge fighting and the advance to the Rhine River. He was among those that crossed the Rhine on the bridge at Remagen before it fell. While on the bridgehead and on patrol, he was reported Killed in Action. The following day that was changed to Missing in Action, but he returned to the unit with a German prisoner a short time later. For that action he was awarded the Silver Star. He was scheduled to receive that medal from General George Patton at Ingolstat, Germany in July of 1945, but had been injured a few days before and could not be there. He was flown back to the states in late August 1945.

The hospitalization which put him in London on D Day was a result of a bout of hepatitis which began in late March of 1945. He earned five battle stars in addition to his Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Palmer married Jane Richardson in November of 1948 and they had one son. He was a Charter Life Underwriter and agency manager for Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States.

In 1993, he organized a reunion of his Officer Candidate Class on the 50th Anniversary of their graduation. He was a regular attendee at reunions of I Company of the 39th Regiment and maintained contact with a number of his old combat friends. He had excellent recall of combat events and frequently compared notes with those who shared the same experiences.

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, Albert Perna, 2642 So. Juniper St., Philadelphia. PA 19148.

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

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley R.
Hopton, Jr.

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I are trying to do some research on my father-in-law's military history. We found your organization mentioned in the book "How To Locate Anyone Who Is or Has Been in The Military", by Lt. Col. Richard S. Johnson. However, our problem is not a simple one of location. It is one of finding a unit history and anyone who may have had contact with him. Let me explain.

Joseph J. Jacovino served in the 6th Special Services Platoon in the European Theatre in 1944 and 1945. This platoon performed entertainment for all of the front line units of the day. As such they traveled around the theatre and were always listed as "Assigned-Unattached". The closest he came to being assigned to a major command was to be under the Headquarters Ground Force Replacement Unit. Their OIC as they traveled around was always a lieutenant assigned to the administration office of a particular unit. It was never one single commander.

We would appreciate it very much if you could include the following notice in your publication -

Looking for personnel that may have been assigned to or seen shows performed by the 6th Special Services Platoon in 1944-1945 in England, Belgium, France and Germany. The shows would have included "My G.I. Back" and "This Ain't The Army". Other members of this platoon included John Suslavic, Tommy Noden, Bob Evans, Dick Vincent, Jack Maxwell and Johnny Ricci. Anyone who has any relevant information, memories or suggestions - please contact- Mr. Joseph Jacovino 18 Rosedale Ave. Waterbury, CT 06705

We sincerely appreciate your help and/or any further suggestions you may be able to offer us. We thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Stanley R. Hopton Jr.

Hi Dan & Marie

Herb Olsen called to inform me that the Msgr. Tom Needham, of the Immaculate Conception church in Worcester, Mass. passed away today. George Brown and I agreed that Herb will send flowers in the name of the Association. Marie, remember that I had mentioned that the Msgr. had two strokes on Saturday and was hospitalized, when I called this past Tuesday evening.

More news: Dwight Merrill did not show at the luncheon even though he had reservations. Turns out, his sick wife died on Saturday. Put her name in "Taps Sounded." Her name was Patricia. He was A-151.

All the Best
Joe Killen

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"F" Co., 60th Inf.
TOM SAUNDERS

_____ to say may sound a little strange but I'm sure many 9th guys have thought about it but never quite got around to doing it.

Yep! I am talking about writing your memoirs. It took my wife, Carol, many years of prodding to get me to even start. I would mention a funny little incident that happened to pop into my head and her first remark would be "See! You should write that down so the grand-kids or great grandkids would really know what went on in those days." Well once I got started I was amazed of all the things, bit and little that I had forgotten. One incident would remind me of another, and I found I would have to make a note of it right then or it would slip my mind again. I always told funny or unique things as my kids were growing up, but now I am writing it the way it was because I don't want anyone to think war is nothing but wine, women and song.

So many stories in the movies and on T.V. depict the Officers side, not that I am against Officers, we had many great Officers, but I'm telling it from the Privates or Non Comm.'s viewpoint.

So far I have covered one hundred pages that cover my time from basic training, to date the crossing of the Remagen Bridge. When I am through with this I will start on my family background and mention the unique things that happened prior to my birth and continuing on as I grew up.

I hope this gets some of you going. It's fun, interesting and after all we are all a part of history.

You're doing a great job, Dan, God Bless.