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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

1-1-2003

The Octofoil, January/February 2003

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume LVIII Number 1 Jan.-Feb. 2003

JANUARY 3, 2003 HELLO, ALL YOU GOOD MEN OF THE NINTH!

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their countrymen. It is now crunch time! This will be the last Octofoil until after our 2003 Reunion. We have had a good response up until now but we need that last big push. We need you to respond to our call.

As you can imagine, putting together the reunion is an awesome task and we want it to be a first-class reunion all the way. We have put together a good program - all we need is your cooperation.

lease don't wait until the last minute. It is of utmost importance that we have an idea how many will attend. For example, we are putting together a program book and need to know how many to print. Another reason, your quick response will help us arrange to get our rooms all together in the hotel.

We also must give Joe Killen a pat on the back for volunteering to put our newspaper together. Currently, Dan Quinn has been unable to do it, however, he is on the road to recovery and is looking forward to attending the reunion. We all wish him well.

We are all working to make this 2003 Reunion a very happy time. Our hotel has complete accommodations for us. The only time we need to leave the hotel will be to attend the dinner theater show, for which transportation will be provided.

The committee (Charlie, Esther, Felice and myself) has scheduled a trip to Lancaster to make sure everything is ready for your comfort. One of our concerns is to insure that you won't be standing in long lines when you check in.

If you would like to come to the reunion but are short of cash, please let us know. We will do our utmost to help you to get to the reunion. Of course, it will be held in the strictest confidence. If you are impaired or need assistance in any way, I have set aside a couple of tables at the dinner theater to accommodate you. Just write and let me know your needs.

This is the first reunion in the Lancaster area. We encourage all members, particularly if you live in the area, to come a day

early for two reasons. One, so that you can register early and get ahead of the crowd and secondly, so that you can have an extra day of shopping.

For the ladies, there is great shopping in and around Lancaster and very quaint Amish stores to browse. The hotel will provide a map of the entire countryside. You can cover quite a bit within three miles of the hotel.

I have been very busy with people calling me from all over the USA. It seems someone put my name on the Internet and also put me in the VFW book under the heading "Reunion." It is amazing how many men that fought with the Ninth who have never heard of our Association. Many are very interested in finding out how to join and receive our Octofoil. Lately, I have been living at the post office. It is a very pleasant task talking with them and giving them all the information.

At least three Ninth men will be attending who never came to a reunion before. Two of them started at Fort Bragg with the Ninth and went all the way up until the Occupation. We will be welcoming them to our Ninth family.

We would hope the entire board gets to the reunion so we can have a good, strong meeting. So far, 11 of the 16 board members have responded in the affirmative. We hope the other five will also come and make it a 100% board turnout.

In talking with our guys, some have indicated to me that they want to come but want to wait until the last month to make sure they were in good health and would be able to attend. To you men, I say, THINK POSITIVE. You should not plan your life thinking you might get sick, or even worse. Look forward to another day and another dollar. And for goodness sakes, let's look forward to a good time at our reunion.

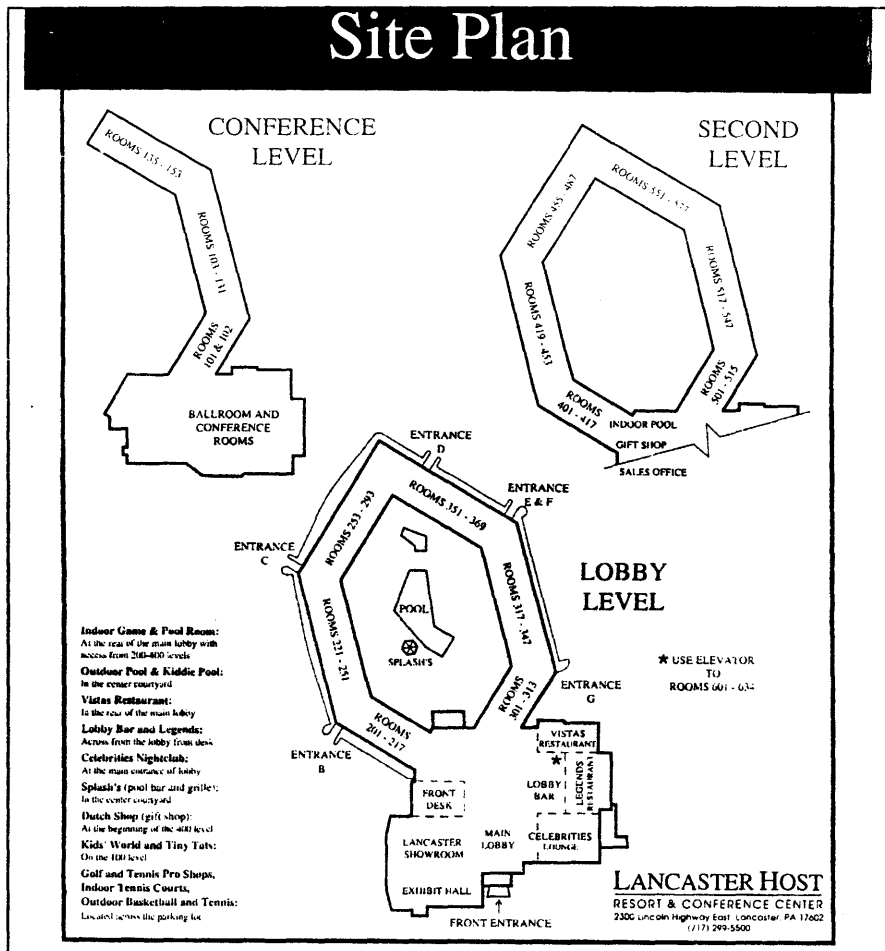
Felice and I had a very enjoyable Christmas with our children and grandchildren. I hope you all had the same. We also hope that those men and women who had some setbacks are well on their way to a full recovery.


My wife and I lit candles and said prayers for all of our Ninth family. Let us hope that the New Year will bring peace on earth and good will toward men.

Just remember - this is the last newspaper to come out until after the reunion. If you didn't make your reservation already, don't wait another second. Also, don't forget your strip ticket money. The ball is now in your court. Let's make a touchdown and have a strong reunion. Looking forward to seeing you all in April. God bless you all.


Charley and Ether Libretto
and Felice and Al Perna

Site Plan





THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to:
224 North Grove Street
Valley Stream, NY 11580
Editor, Joe Killen
Editor Emeritus, Dan Quinn



National Officers
President
George H. Brown
[Redacted]

Tom Hatton, 1st V.P.
[Redacted]

Pat DeColli, 2nd V.P.
10 [Redacted] 8

Emil Langer, 3rd V.P.
[Redacted]

Dave Heller
Judge Advocate
[Redacted]

Joe Killen,
Secretary/Treasurer
[Redacted]

Daniel Quinn,
Secretary Emeritus
[Redacted]

Board of Governors
2003
Herb Olsen
Marston Mills, MA

Dave Heller
Highland Park, IL

Jack Blann
Houston, TX

Al Perna
Philadelphia, PA

H. F. Stansell
Ormond Beach, FL

2004
Gordon Anderson
Des Plaines, Ill.

Pete Radichio
Hernando, FL

Tom Saunders
Redford, MI

Herb Stern
Houston, TX

Adolph Wadalavage
Ozone Park, NY

Edward V. Gill
Somers Point, NJ

2005
Elmer Wagner
Bay City, MI

Charles LiBretto
Paramus, NJ

Pat DeColli
Philadelphia, PA

George H. Brown
Toano, VA

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

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

Copy must be received on or before the 15th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th. Second-Class Postage paid at Cedarhurst, N.Y. 11516, and additional offices.

POST MASTER: Send address changes to 224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580.

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The Octofoil Publication #402820

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Joe Killen, Secretary/Treasurer, 9th Infantry Division Assn. 224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580

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: \$25.00

THREE-YEAR MEMBER \$75.00

Life Membership \$3.00

Ladies Auxiliary Member

Decals \$1.00 each

☐ Philly-Delaware Valley

☐ Illinois

☐ New England

☐ Florida

☐ Texas

☐ Greater New York

☐ Washington, D.C.

☐ Michigan

☐ New Jersey

☐ South West

LANCASTER HOST DIRECTIONS

FROM LANCASTER AIRPORT:
Take 501S to 30 E - hotel is on right hand.

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-983 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) est 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 N.J. turnpike (I-95) south to the PA turnpike (I-276 to I-76) west. take that to the Rt. 222 (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 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.

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

RATES QUOTED ARE PER ROOM
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 1/2% 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 4PM CHECK-OUT 11AM

STRIP TICKETS

\$75 Per Person
Will include a beer, pretzels and potato chips for the 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, 2 [Redacted]

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

POTSHOTS AND OTHER OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DUGOUT

Good Morning World, and Thank You Lord for allowing me to remain among the troops. Help me, Lord, to not make a fool of myself with these new responsibilities involved in getting out a decent product worthy of our members. I will let the last issue speak for itself, without any further comment. Since I am receiving very little co-operation from anyone at the present time, Lord, could You see Your way clear to give me a nudge in the right direction every now and again when I need it. With some Divine Guidance I'm sure that I can make a go of it.

I only pray that my fellow members have patience and a little leeway in their hearts if I happen to goof-up a bit, not that I want to, but you never can tell. what may happen. Between Walter and Dan, they had thirty-five years to play around with the paper and any comparison right off the bat would be totally unfair. Please keep in mind that I'll be doing my best and I'm promising never to make the same mistake twice.

I happened to glance skyward this afternoon while I was walking thru my village as the snow was falling and in that instant these same weather conditions transported me back thru the years to the streets of Verviers, Belgium in early February '45... Same kind of wet snow, then as now. I gave a thought to all of the young men that were with me; some are still in touch, others are only a few miles from Verviers in Henri-Chappelle. AMC and I wonder whatever happened to the remainder of the group... I pray for their well-being.

There seems to be a large number of Ninth Infantry Divisions World War II veterans out in the world who for one reason or other never heard of our Association. I have contacted a few thru the Internet, or because of the ads in the DAV and VFW magazines. I feel that they all should be back with the old gang where they belong and none will be turned away.

Joe Killen, G-47

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I would like to reprint word for word a message from the NEW EDITORS (at that time) that first appeared in the November - December 1967 issue of the Octofoil. Here is what Walter O'Keeffe and Dan Quinn had to say some thirty-five years ago.

* * *

As we embark upon this new undertaking, we are deeply aware of the responsibilities that are part and parcel of the Editor's job. For many years Paul Plunkett served with distinction as Editor of the Octofoil. During his tenure he set high standards that will be difficult to duplicate. Paul enjoyed a rapport with the members of the Association that was unique and personal. It will be impossible to imitate his style. However, Paul has pointed out the way and has given us a goal to strive for. We shall try to do our best to live up to the standards that he has set.

Editors can publish a paper but they can not make news; only the membership can do that. Therefore, we hope that the mem-

bers of the Association will co-operate with us and continue to send in the letters and notes that play such a vital part in making the Octofoil the voice of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. We want you to feel that the Octofoil is your paper and that you are a member of the staff. Any news that pertains to the activities of the Division or its members will be welcome.

As this hectic year draws to a close, we want to extend the Season's greetings to all the members and their families. It is our sincere hope that the coming year will bless all of you with good health, prosperity, and good fortune.

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE - Thank you, Gentlemen, for those heartfelt words that rang true when you first composed them, and that are still fitting and proper today as the Octofoil is once more handed forward to be held high as we journey along the road to our destiny. I'll do my best.

C CO. 39TH INF.

Paul W. J. Shumacher

Please accept for the 9th Inf. Div. Association this gift in memory of George Booth, 39th Inf. Regt. Cannon Company.

I had known George Booth for only a few years. We traveled together to the beaches of France and to battle sites in Belgium, The Netherlands and to Germany on the trip put together by John Miller for 9th Inf. Div. veterans.

Also, my wife and I visited George in the VA Hospital in Coralville, Iowa on 8 June 2002. George was a good friend and a patriot to anyone who knew him, Our blessings to his wife Lola and to his family.

LEONARD FLORIO DEAD AT 83

After a brief illness, Leonard Florio passed away on December 11, 2002. His wife Cruz entered him in The Canturberry Assistant Care Facility, Bonita Springs, Florida on Friday, December 6, and he passed away five days later.

Leonard Florio served in the Reconnaissance & Intelligence Section (R&I) of the 47th Infantry Regiment. He received his training at Ft. Bragg, NC and took part in the invasion of Safi, Africa. He continued serving throughout Sicily, Normandy, France, Belgium and into Germany. Leonard was born and raised in New York City. He and his wife Cruz were married in Astoria, NY in 1948 and then moved to Florida in 1957. They attended many National and Florida Chapter Reunions. They were very well liked and will be missed.

To express condolences, please write to Mrs. Cruz Florio,

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:

Nancy Ciluffo Sagorski - In memory of Billie Martin, A Btry. 26th F. A.

Francis Coblisch - In memory of Tom Boyle, C Btry. 26th F. A.

George Brown - In memory of Billie Martin, A Btry. 26th F. A.

Mrs. Francis Fitzgerald - In memory of her husband, Francis, D Co. 60th Inf.

Lawrence Petruzzelli

J. E. Eddy, Jr.

Walter J. Labaj

Geneva Combs - In memory of her husband, Clarence, E Co. 47th Inf.

John Losnes - In memory of James Ray Deston, L Co. 39th Inf.

Preston Stillings - In memory of Taylor D. Wilkins, Sr.

Glen A. Shaw - In memory of J.D. O'Rourke, Div. Hq. Co.

John Wessmiller - In memory of J.D. O'Rourke, 60th Inf.

George Brown - In memory of Jen Swayze Street Gunn, wife of Gen. Frank Gunn.

Louis A. LaCivita

John H. Doxsee

Joe Killen - In memory of Billie Martin, J.W. Baswell, and Ron Murphy.

The 9th Inf. Div. Assn. - In memory of Msgr. Tom Needham of Immaculate Conception Church, Worcester, MA.

Paul W. J. Schumacher - In memory of George Booth, Cannon Co. 39th Inf.

Larry McLaughlin - In memory of Warren Evans, A Co. 47th Inf.

Joseph A. Gurli - In memory of Harold McCutcheon, Service Btry. 34th F.A.

A. L. Shockley - In memory of C.A. Porch and Warren Good, both of the 34th F.A.

Robert G. Glans

Everett N. Tapp - In memory of Billie Martin of the Michigan Chapter

Samuel Palter

39TH INF. - A CO.

Stanley Kazdoy

I am so glad that I rejoined the Association this year. I really enjoy reading the Octofoil. Enclosed are my dues for 2003.

Hope you are fully recovered from your recent illness.

47TH INF. - E CO.

William E. Roberson

Enclosed is a check for \$25.00 to cover the next three years of Ninth Division dues. I hope you are in good health now. Regards.

47TH INF. - 1ST BN. HQ. CO.

Ralph Yeakel

Enclosed please find dues. I wish to sign up for the following Regular Member per year. \$10.00. Keep the Octofoil coming. Thank you.

LADIES' CORNER

April is just around the corner when we will meet in Lancaster for the Annual Reunion. The Ladies Auxiliary needs your help. We need more items for the table to chance off. Do you knit or crochet?? Perhaps an afghan or pillow cases with crocheted edges. Crafty?? A photo album or any craft would be appreciated.

The more items we have, the more chances we will sell to make donations to the VA hospitals. These will be chanced off on the banquet night. Our meeting will be on Wednesday at 10:00 AM. If you know of any VA hospital you would like a donation made to, please bring the name and address to the meeting. Remember to bring along your Pollyanna gift. Election of Officers will be held.

A speaker on the Amish traditions will be with us. Laryce Rybka, a member of our auxiliary, has written a book entitled "Guardian of The Lamp." She would like a book signing and will donate \$1 from each book sold to our Aux. See her there. Till then get busy on an item for the table.

See you in Lancaster.

Jean Geary, Aux. President

60TH INF.- F CO.

Tom Saunders

8905 Wormer

Redford, MI 48239-1294

Just a few lines to let you know that TAPS HAVE SOUNDED for Billie Martin, a very dear friend and a member of the 26th FA. I accidentally met he and Marilyn after the war.

I use to kid him that it was because of him and his buddies that I'm bald. They sometimes dropped those shells so close to us Infantry doggies that if I would have stuck a match up in the air it would have lit, but by the same token, without those guys a lot of doggies would not be around today. Good-bye old buddy, God bless.

Col. John Wessmiller
U. S. Army (Retired.)
Wequasset Way
Chatham, MA 02633

It is with sad heart that I inform you of the loss of another old 9th veteran, a great man from the now called "Greatest Generation."

Major J. D. O'Rourke from the 60th Infantry and a good friend of our hero Mike Urbanowitz. JD passed away quietly on Dec. 22nd, 2002.

Thank you for keeping us all going; time is slowly reaping the remainder of the 9th Division. God Bless them all.

Major Glenn A. Shaw
U. S. Army (Retired)
206 W. Wilson
Yates Center, KS 66783

Enclosed please find a check for a memorial in memory of Captain John (J.D.) O'Rourke, who passed away December 22, 2002 in Orange City, FL. J.D.'s assignment was Division Headquarters Company Commander during the war in Europe, but he was in the 60th for his first 3 battle stars. I first met J.D. when I replaced Lt. John Wessmiller as Defense Platoon Leader on June 15, 1944, who had been wounded and evacuated the day prior. I saw J.D. several years later in Orlando, and again at the convention in San Antonio. He was the best. Thank you.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER A GREAT REUNION IN ST. AUGUSTINE

Members, their wives and guests all said "We had a great time!" Everything was well planned and executed. Practically all of the 7 extra large pizzas at the Thursday, November 7th evening Beer Party were gobbled up, as well as the 3 big salads. Wm Mac Donald polished off half of the spaghetti platter in addition to his pizza. Arnold and Louise Tomanek discovered a rare bottle of cognac. They made a mistake in telling others how smooth it tasted, however they made sure they got their share of the bottle. If you go to St. Augustine, be sure to go to Borillo's Pizza & Subs for a slice of pizza with their salad. Borillo's is located at 88 St. Marcos Ave. in the heart of St. Augustine.

On Friday, November 8th, all were bused to Municipal Marina where everyone boarded the Victory III Sight Seeing Cruise Boat. For over one hour and a quarter, the guide narrated the different historical sights such as the Bridge of Lions, the St. Augustine Lighthouse, the Old Fort and many others. Many took pictures as we passed Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine Inlet, the Marshlands and other historical sites. The only incident that spoiled this cruise happened when Chuck Van Der Poel slipped and fell off the sidewalk as he was approaching the sightseeing trains that were waiting to take the group for a tour around St. Augustine. Chuck remained with the group for the entire 3 days, but upon examination by his doctor after the reunion, x-rays revealed that he had suffered a fracture in his shoulder and another in his forearm. Chuck has been recuperating at home on 2005 Elaina Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32216. Phone: (904) 724-3633. A note or phone call will be appreciated.

The Boat Cruise was followed by a Sight Seeing Train Tour around St. Augustine. This tour allows passengers to step off at any of the 20 stops and then take any one of the next trains that operate every 15 or 20 minutes throughout the day from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M. This guided tour makes stops at the Fountain of Youth, the Old Florida Museum, the Old Government House, the Old St. Augustine Village, where one could easily spend an entire day browsing the many quaint shops and stores that are located on century-old narrow streets.

At 6 P.M. The group again boarded a private bus which took them to Sharkey's Restaurant on St. Marcos Ave. The food and the entertainment were "super." Special attention of the 9th Division's history was cited by the Restaurant's Management and the entertainer. A truly enjoyable evening was had by all.

The highlights of the Saturday Morning Men's Business Meeting were: 1) President Van Der Poel introduced Ret. Col. Ralph I. Williams as new Florida Chapter member. He went on to praise Ira Moser from Winston Salem, NC for attending our reunion for the first time... Wally Richardson for making the trip from Indiana with his granddaughter... Donald Hyde & William Mac Donald, who although handicapped, made the trip from Seminole, FL. in his motorized scooter, for attending this reunion after an absence of

almost 10 years. (2) That Emil De Donato was appointed Treasurer upon the death of Richard Boudouy, and that he moved the bank account from Ormond Beach to the Dunnellon State Bank. (3) Treasurer De Donato gave the Treasurer's report stating that the Florida Chapter Treasury was in good standing. (4) That E-Mail addresses of members who have them are to be added to the roster. (5) That Emil De Donato was to put a notice in his next Florida Chapter Newsletter urging all members who have E-Mail addresses and would like to have them printed on the next roster to send them to Charles Van Der Poel, 2005 Elaina Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32216, who will compile them and then send them to Ed Gray, who is preparing the roster on his computer. (Notes To all members who want their E-Mail Address printed on the next roster, please comply with this notice). (6) That the Florida Chapter 2003 Reunion is scheduled to be held in Port St. Lucie with Arthur Coulon as its Chairperson, and with help from Gil Pernokas & Ralph Williams. (7) The election of officers were as follows: Charles Van Der Poel, Pres.; Dr. Martin Gross, V. P.; Edward Gray, Sec.; Emil J. De Donato, Treas/PR; and H. F. Stansell as Chaplain.

At the completion of the Business Meeting everyone had over five hours to see the sights, go shopping, tour the train again or remain on the grounds of the beautiful Hilton Gardens Inn, located on Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach. At 6L30 P.M. Saturday, TP Catering Co. of Palatka, FL. brought in a scrumptious BUFFET. These two women prepared and served homemade Italian Lasagna, Roast Beef, Parsley Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls, a variety of delicious desserts, plus coffee and tea. Soon after the buffet was over, Pres. Van Der Poel was heard to say, "That was the best buffet I have ever eaten." Joe Williams and his wife Dottie came from Jacksonville, while Hershel Wood and his guest arrived from Orlando to join the group for the buffet. Shortly after the National Reunion held in 1979 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Joe Williams led a few other 9th Infantry Division Veterans to form the Florida Chapter. We were please to have Mr. & Mrs. Williams, Hershel Wood and guest join us for the buffet and dance to the tunes of Lee Wolfe, who supplied us with his music and singing. The snacks, beer, soda, liquor and other goodies flowed freely in the Hospitality Room throughout the three days of this reunion.

ROSTER UPDATE

At the Florida Chapter November 7 - 9 Reunion in St. Augustine, all members were given a Membership Roster that had a few additions and corrections. These changes were sent to Ed Grey, who is charge of updating the roster on his computer. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the roster with changes noted, may do so by sending \$1.00 to Emil J. De Donato, 3650 S. W. Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Ernest Newhardt, 15th Eng., October 31, 1999

Max Mickelson, Co. I 47th Infantry, July 11, 1999

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

William Mac Donald: Despite being handicapped to the extent of using a motorized scooter to get around, Bill was determined to attend the reunion in St. Augustine. He phoned Emil De Donato for help. Together they were able to arrange transportation from his home in Seminole, Florida, which is located below St. Petersburg, to St. Augustine. Special arrangements had to be made from the bus station to the hotel and then to all the functions, and finally for his return trip home. Bill Mac Donald was delighted to meet and to take part in this enjoyable reunion. The members were happy to have him with us. William Mac Donald has shown us a wonderful example of a severely handicapped veteran determined to overcome any obstacles in order to be with his comrades. (Please see story with photo in another section of the Octofoil).

Ret. Col. Ralph I. Williams: Col. Williams joined the Florida Chapter on August 26, 2002. He and his wife moved from the Midwest to Florida several years ago. Wanda passed away in May of 2002. Col. Williams praised the reunion committee for the planning and execution of the reunion. He said it compared with the well planned attack the 60th Field Artillery made against Gen. Rommel's army in Africa. Ralph Williams served as a Captain in the 60th F. A. (look for a profile story and photo of Col. Williams in another section of the Octofoil).

Gifford Persing: Florida Chapter Member Gifford Persing served with Co. C 39th Infantry together with his identical twin brother. In 1944 the twins separated for a brief period. It was then Gifford learned that his twin brother was wounded. He was able to see his brother just before he was transferred to a hospital in England. A once in a million happening occurred during the time that Gifford met his twin brother... there at the 39th Infantry Command Post was another set of twins who were in Company B of the 39th Infantry. What's the chances of this kind of an incident will ever happen again? Both sets of twins have not seen or heard from one another since their surprise meeting. Gifford Persing now lives at [REDACTED] while his twin brother makes his home in Pennsylvania.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

Election of Officers held at the November 9, 2002 Meeting resulted in the same officers to serve for another year. They are: Lila Stansell, President; No Vice President; Audrey De Donato, Sec/Treas. All members were urged to attend future reunions with their husbands or if single, with a friend or member of their family.

News received after the reunion: Dolores Bolognese's mother passed away on November 7, 2002. Our condolences go out to the family. May she rest in peace, Amen. Dolores and her husband Anthony recently moved to [REDACTED]

On November 19, 2002, Lila Stansell suffered a slight heart attack. After a stay of 3 days in the hospital, Lila was released. We were happy to learn that Lila is resting and getting better at home on 217 River Beach Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32176. A get

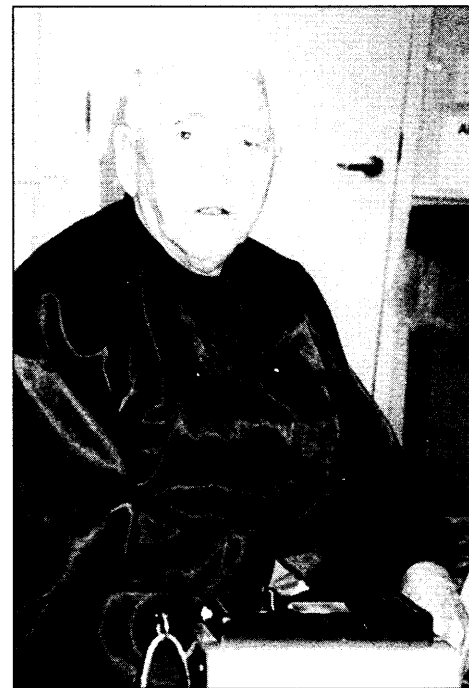
well card will be appreciated.

Emil & Audrey De Donato



100% HANDICAPPED VET ATTENDS REUNION

At the November 7 to 9, 2002 Florida Chapter Reunion, Emil De Donato had an opportunity to interview William "Bill" Mac Donald, who, despite being 100% disabled, attended the St. Augustine Florida Chapter Reunion. Bill was wounded on both knees and on his buttocks on September 22, 1944.



William Mac Donald

He was first transferred to Belgium and then sent to England to mend his wounds. Just before Christmas 1944, Bill was sent to the United States for surgery and recovery. But his wounds were too severe for him to ever return to his former self again. He is presently using a motorized scooter to get around.

William Mac Donald was born on July 16, 1917 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He and his wife lived in Ohio until October 1957 when they moved to Florida. He was drafted in March 1942, and was sent to Camp Walter, Texas for his basic training. He was assigned to the 9th Division in England. Mac Donald served as a runner with Company F, 47th Infantry Regiment. He married Fern on Christmas Day in 1945. Although handicapped, Bill worked at General Electric for a number of years. After fifty years of marriage, Fern passed away in 1995. Bill has devoted many years volunteering at different veterans' hospitals. At 85 years of age and handicapped, Bill continues to do volunteer work in his community. William Mac Donald now lives in a mobile home at [REDACTED]

Bill would love to hear from anyone who knows or remembers him. His phone number is [REDACTED]

Emil J. De Donato

THE TEXAS AND GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER OF THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

We wish to go on record as to the 2004 Reunion sites. These are merely proposals:

1. St. Louis, Mo
2. Columbus, Ohio
3. Nashville, Tenn.

The above sites have numerous hotels which cater to conventions, and are used to accommodate groups like ours.

Sincerely,

Herb Stern
President
Texas/Greater SW Chapter

TEXAS & GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

To paraphrase an old saying "Feed them and they will come."

And show up they did for the Chapter's Fall meeting in Burleson, Texas on 10 October 2002.

President Herb Stern convened the meeting at the Five Star Inn Motel. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Secretary/Treasurer Ernie Botella reported a Balance of \$658.54 in the treasury.

Jack Blann reported on the 57th National and Board meetings. The next National meeting to be held April 22, 2003, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The names of Chapter members who have passed on were read. The Chapter will continue to invite the widows of those members to our Chapter meetings.

Voting on the next meeting site, Austin was selected for March 2003. As the Texas state legislature may be in session at that time and the disclosure of a military museum in Huntsville, Texas, the Chapter may reconsider Huntsville as an alternative.

The Chapter does not assess dues and so the attendees are asked to contribute funds. The OCTOFOIL rug was placed on the floor and we quickly raised \$75.00. This was somewhat reminiscent of the crap games that went on over a GI blanket but here the house took all the "winnings."

In recognition of Sam Burns contribution in arranging our two barbecues, a bolo with the Octofoil and 39th Regiment emblems was later presented to Sam.

When the meeting was adjourned, we drove to Warren Park in Burleson where an American Flag draped pavilion awaited us for the barbecue.

Mary Ruth Arnold had prepared a succulent seasoned beef brisket and Sam Burns had mesquite smoked a whole turkey. With ranch style beans, potato salad, relish trays and soft drinks, we sat down to an outstanding repast.

Jean Miller had spent hours preparing five cakes: Chocolate Alpine Cake, Hungarian Hazelnut Torte, Chocolate Lace Walnut Cake, Pumpkin-Walnut Cheesecake, Chocolate Cheesecake, and a Key-Lime Pie. Jean's training at the Paris, France culinary school was certainly in evidence for the desert course.

In talking with Sam Burns at the meals conclusion, he showed us the stainless steel barbecue tools that he had been presented by the local Purple Heart Chapter.

John Tittle had brought with him his old steel WW II helmet. You remember those. We used to crawl inside of them when we were being shelled.

Those in attendance were: M/M Arnold, M/M Blann, M/M Botella, Sam Burns and Anita Biver, M/M Granbery, M/M Lynch, M/M Miller, Charles Newton, M/M Norris, Pete Rice, Gordon Schneider, M/M Stern, and M/M Tittle.

Gordon A. Schneider

M COMPANY (47TH) CHRONICLER

Many times I have heard from my fellow M'ers about some new history of the war which has failed to acknowledge the 9th Infantry Division as the all-time ETO champs. I researched this point some while preparing "The Making of a Professional: Manton S. Eddy, USA, and with a little help from Ernie Pyle, I wrote it up on page 2 of that book. Unfortunately, my publisher priced that book out of reach of most of us so it failed its purpose of explaining our lack of publicity as first-rate fighting men.

A new and excellent history of the war in Northwest Africa has come out recently, "An Army at Dawn," by Rick Atkinson (no relation to our David C. Atkinson). Again, the 9th is hardly mentioned in comparison with The Big Red One, even though the author indicates in his bibliography that he's reviewed the Eddy biography. So, I'm taking this opportunity to clear the air: following is an excerpt of what I wrote on the subject on Page 2, "The Making of a Professional." Writing of the magnificent publicity the 9th received in U. S. publications following its cutting through the Cherbourg Peninsula, and isolation of an important port, I said:

"Soldiers of the 9th appreciated the splendor and different treatment the division received from the press in Normandy. In North Africa, because of an administrative error, the censors never released the division's presence in the theater until long after all the other units had been named openly. The lack of mention had an adverse effect on morale. Family members and girlfriends sent clippings of the battle of Kasserine; and although the 1st Armored Division was identified, the 9th was not. "Where was the 9th while all this was going on?" When the 9th Division Artillery won the Distinguished Unit Citation for its part in this fighting, the public remained ignorant of its achievement.

"General Eddy never made a fuss over the lack of attention from the press. He had no animus toward reporters or their role. Probably his diffidence was the result of what he thought was appropriate behavior for the commander. It was unseemly to seek personal publicity, and Eddy did not distinguish between fame of the unit and that of himself. Also, he had a tendency to belittle the importance that soldiers might attach to such things.

"If this was Eddy's original reaction to the problem, his attitude changed as part of the 9th's move to England and preparation for D-Day. Credit for this change can be given to Captain Lindsey Nelson, the 9th's information officer and a well-trained and experienced newsman himself who, after the war, earned a national reputation as a sports television announcer.

"Ernie Pyle, another of the correspondents following the 9th at this point, later explained its predicament in a column published widely in the United States in Scripps Howard and other newspapers:

As a result of this neglect in the

Mediterranean, the Ninth laid careful plans so that it wouldn't happen again. In the first place, a new censorship policy was arrived at, under which the identity of divisions taking part in this campaign would be publicly released just as soon as it was definitely established that the Germans knew they were in combat.

With the big hurdle accomplished, the Ninth made sure the correspondents themselves would feel at home with them.

They set up a small public relations section with an officer in charge. A squad of enlisted men and a truck were assigned for moving the correspondents gear along with three tents with cots, electric lights and tables. Of course, in spite of such facilities, a division has to be good in the first place if it is going to get good publicity. The Ninth was good. It performed like a beautiful machine in the Cherbourg campaign. Its previous battle experience paid off. Not only in individual fighting but in the perfect way the whole organization clicked.

It should be recognized that the 9th's Generals Eddy and Stroh, did not have the out-going personalities had by Generals Terry de la Mesa Allen and Theodore Roosevelt of the 1st Division. The Big Red One had a WW I reputation; the 9th had none. Together, for much of the time, these two divisions with the 3rd Armored were teammates in General J. Lawton Collins's VII Corps. When asked after the war by General Marshall to identify his very best divisions, Eisenhower would not decide between the 1st and the 9th, so he reported they were his top two divisions.

So let's be honest fellows. From the war's beginning the 1st Division got to lead off. It had been the Army's only active division between the wars. It was intact and available when it came time to ship a division to England. In Africa it landed in Algiers, closest to Tunisia, where it initiated the II Corps' Gafsa offensive and became well bloodied at El Guettar before the 9th came on the scene. Then it, with the 39th RCT, assault landed in Sicily while we walked down the plank some days later. The Big Red One, still with the 39th attached, was thoroughly beat up at Troina before we were committed.

Likewise in Normandy, the 1st assault landed at Omaha Beach. We were in VII Corps reserve and came ashore dryly for the most part on D plus 4. Again, the 1st was severely clawed at Aachen before the 9th got into its Huertgenforst butchery. Except for crossing the Rhine, the 1st was always first. We of the 9th had an advantage here, and we ought to remember it. We undoubtedly ended the war with more of our original old sods than did our VII Corps teammates.

New subject: 1 regret relating that former mortarman Lyle E. Vail of Macomb, IL, died September 8th. Lyle joined us on 16 July '44 and survived until the end of the war.

Red Phillips

47TH INF. - K CO.

John W. Arnold

Just wanted everyone to know I am still alive and kicking at 79 and 1/2 years old. So I am sending a \$25.00 check for three more years' dues. My wife and I really enjoyed

Pigeon Forge. Was I the only one there from Co. K-47th? Didn't see anyone else; would have loved to have seen some of the guys from the old outfit. Did meet a lot of real nice people from other companies and regiments.

This was my first national convention. Hope it won't be my last. Regards to all.

39TH INF. - C CO.

Lee Ellis

Gee, time does fly. I didn't realize that I hadn't paid my dues 'till I didn't get a paper since last fall. Sorry. Am sending \$35.00 for 3 years; would like 4 decals and the balance in the Memorial Fund.

I am doing OK, and hope this finds you doing A-OK. I had a Christmas card from John Young in Tenn. He is hanging in there like the rest of us. Have a great year and thank you for all that you do for the 9th Assn. Best Regards.

RET. COL. RALPH I. WILLIAMS JOINS FLA. CHAPTER

Not only did Col. Ralph Williams, (60th FA) join the Florida Chapter in August, 2002, but he was one of the first to send in his order form to attend the November 7 to 9 Chapter Reunion in St. Augustine. He was cordially introduced to many of the attendees and soon made himself right at home.

During the end of the reunion, Col Williams gave this writer a tear sheet from the Sunday, October 13, 2002 Daytona Daily News that carried an interesting story that I'd like to share with the Octofoil readers. Ralph Williams served as a Captain with the 60th Field Artillery all through Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium and Germany... the entire 9 yards. He believes that being a Captain at that time was a lucky omen for him and probably saved his life. During the battle of the Normandy hedge rows, Capt. Williams was just about to get into a jeep on a reconnaissance mission with the Battalion Commander and his driver, when a major pulled his rank on him and got into the jeep. Moments later, the jeep hit a mine, killing the driver and wounding the Major and the Battalion Commander severely. Shortly after that incident, Capt. Williams was promoted to Major at age 25.

This past summer, Col. Williams pinned those same Captain's bars on his grandson, Mark Rogers who enlisted in the Air Force in 1985. Mark served in the Persian Gulf War, received his commission in 1999 and now serves as a reservist with the 445 Aerospace Medicine Squadron. Grandpa Williams was proud to pin the same Captain bars on his grandson that he wore during WWII. At the October 6, 2002 ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Col. Williams said, "It is an honor for me to be able to pin these Captain Bars on my grandson." It was kind of emotional because Ralph's wife Wanda, who passed away in May, 2002, was not at his side to witness this wonderful event.

Emil J. DeDonato



Col. Ralph Williams

MICHIGAN CHAPTER THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

I am sending Clyde LeBrenz's dues form together with a check for \$9.

Also, here is news of the Michigan Chapter for the Octofoil:

The Michigan Chapter Christmas party was held at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant in Frankenmuth, Michigan on December 11, 2002. There were twenty-two persons in attendance. Among those attending were Elmer Wagner, Everett Tapp, Dick Irwin, Clyde and Ann LaBrenz, Lynn and Stella Bowers, Art and Mary Doering, Bill and Suzanne DeBruyne, Harry and Blondina Sager, Roger Alsgaard, Tom Hatton, Floyd Hennessey and Jeanette Williams, Don and Bobbi Sedestrom, Tom and Carol Saunders, and Marilyn Martin.

Among the first time attendees were Don and Bobbi Sedestrom, of Livonia. Don was a 9th MP in Bavaria after WWII.

Officers for the coming year were sworn in: President, Everett Tapp; 1st Vice President, Roger Alsgaard; 2nd Vice President, Jim Dawson; Secretary, Ed

Wisniewski; Treasurer, Elmer Wagner; Adjutant, Elmer Wagner; Chaplain, Tom Hatton, Sgt. at Arms, Tom Hatton; Historian, Floyd Hennessey.

Upcoming events for the Michigan Chapter are the annual memorial service and picnic at the home of Art and Mary Doering, of Alto, MI. It will be held on Saturday, August 9, 2003. The annual Illinois/Michigan joint meeting in Angola, IN will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 14 & 15, 2003 with the Illinois Chapter as hosts. Our next Christmas party will be Wednesday, December 10, 2003 at the Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth.

I could not attend the Christmas party, as I was in the hospital after having suffered a stroke. The only residual effect of the stroke seems to be my eyesight. I am now recuperating at home.

Yours in Comradeship,

Edwin W. Wisniewski
Secretary, Michigan Chapter

OCTOFOIL REPORT FILED BY MARV LEVY FEBRUARY 3, 2003 GREATER NY AREA CHAPTER

On Sunday, December 15, 2002, the NY Area Chapter hosted its annual Holiday luncheon at Durow's Restaurant, 81-01 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY. Joe Killen's Octofoil placard at the entrance welcomed the "Notorious Ninth." Barbara Levy festooned the tables with carry-home poinsettia potted plants.

At 12 noon members began arriving, greeting each other with warm holiday cheer. Chapter prez (yours truly) welcomed all: Joe & Sadie Maiale, Joe & Emma Killen, Tony & Viola Varone, Joe Rzesniowiecki, Adolph Wadalavage & friend, Al & Geneieve Zenka, Anton & Charlotte Dietrich, Charlie & Esta LiBreteo, Hermino & Elsie Suarez, Ed Harris, Norman & Donna Miller, Tony & Rose DeRobertis and son (who made the trip from PA); Frank Hodek & friend, and Ed Leddy.

Luncheon was served about 1:00 PM starting with soup and salad. A choice of NY Shell Steak, fish or chicken was the main course. A pitcher of coke and beer was placed on each table. The delicious meal was topped off with a piece of Joe Rzesniowiecki's birthday cake and hot beverage. Everyone enjoyed the luncheon.

INSTALLATION OF 2003 CHAPTER OFFICERS

After being satiated we held a short meeting to install the incoming 2003 officers. Yours truly received an Octofoil plaque in recognition of my 2002 presidential tenure. The new officers are: President-Ed Harris; 1st VP-Charlie LiBretto; 2nd VP-Joe Maiale; Secretary/Treasurer-Al Zenka; Recording Secretary-Marv Levy; Chaplain-Al Lipton and Sgt. at Arms-Al Lubrano.

Bd. of Govs.: 39th-Herminio Suarez; 47th-Dan Quinn; 60th-Charlie LiBretto; Special Troops-Adolph Wadalavage; Divarty-Al Lipton; and Judge Advocate-Dan Quinn.

THE HOLIDAY WINNERS

The 50-50 Holiday Raffle followed. The prize winners were: Bill Muldoon-\$250; Ms. Vally Tujague-\$125; Ed Harris-\$75; Bob Bovanizer-\$50. The next ten winners received \$10 each: Joe Scardulli, Maurice Houckes, Sr. (twice), Olida J. Starro, P. Cancellate, VA Iannucci, Frank Markland, Trevor Jones, Joe Gravino, Jr. and Ed Harris. Fruit cakes donated by Adolph Wadalavage and Joe Killen were won by Geneieve Zenka and Rose DeRobertis. Congratulations to all winners!

As noted in the previous Octofoil chapter report the chapter would not meet in the months of January and February due to expected cold-weather difficulties. We will meet again on March 21 at the 69th Regt Armory.

ON SICK CALL

Sick call notes (at the time of this writing): Emma Killen was recovering in the hospital from a vascular leg bypass. Barbara Levy was admitted to a rehabilitation facility after hip-replacement surgery. Al Zenka, who had just completed chemotherapy, was relaxing with Geneieve in Florida until March 1st. The chapter sends well wishes for complete recovery to our ill members and wives.

DUES DUE

Well, Ninthmen, for those who haven't sent in their dues for 2003, it's \$10 for one year; \$25 for 3 years and \$75 for Lifetime Membership. Make checks payable to NY Area Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assn. and send to Al Zenka, Secretary/Treasurer, [redacted]

Hope to see many NY area members at our March meeting when we appoint delegates to the Lancaster Reunion in April.

Marv Levy
Co A 60th

BILL MAULDIN

William Henry Mauldin was justifiably famous and beloved as an editorial cartoonist. He won two Pulitzer Prizes for cartooning, and could have won a dozen others over his 55-year career. And yet when the news came about his death Wednesday, what people remembered most fondly was his earliest work - the Joe and Willie cartoons of World War II.

Bill Mauldin could not only draw, he could write. In his war memoir "Up Front," he paid tribute to the dogface soldiers of World War II. We reprint it here in memory of him, and of the soldiers he loved:

The Infantryman

DIG A HOLE in your back yard raining. Sit in the hole until the water climbs up around your ankles. Pour cold mud

down your shirt collar. Sit there for 48 hours, and, so there is no danger of dozing off, imagine that a guy is sneaking around waiting for a chance to club you on the head or set your house on fire.

Get out of the hole, fill a suitcase full of rocks, pick it up, put a shotgun in your other hand, and walk on the muddiest road you can find. Fall flat on your face every few minutes as you imagine big meteors streaking down to sock you.

After 10 or 12 miles (remember - you are still carrying the shotgun and suitcase) start sneaking through the wet brush. Imagine that somebody has booby-trapped your route with rattlesnakes which will bite you if you step on them.



Give some friend a rifle and have him blast in your direction once in a while... run like hell all the way back to your hole in the backyard, drop the suitcase and shotgun, and get in.

If you repeat this performance every three days for several months you may begin to understand why an infantryman sometimes gets out of breath. But you still won't understand how he feels when things get tough.

You do most of your sleeping while you march... It's a little better when you can lie down, even in the mud. Rocks are better than mud because you can curl yourself around the big rocks.

Then you pick up your rifle and your pack and the entrenching tool and the canteen and the bayonet and the first-aid kit and the grenade pouches... You start walking again, but you are getting close now so you keep five yards between yourself and the next guy, and you begin to feel your heart pounding a little faster... You start to dig a slit trench because the enemy night come to you if you don't go to him.

You wake up two hours later... it's raining and the hole is half full of water. Your head still feels fuzzy and your heart is still pounding... The rain continues, the weather is getting colder, and you try to go to sleep quick so you won't feel it.

The St. Louis Post Dispatch

Remember The Dates 58th Annual Reunion April 22 - 25, 2003

60TH INF. - K CO.

Joe Rappazini

[redacted]

The Noble Ninth

There is something that I must share with you, since we were with a gallant "crew"! Yes? 'twas the Ninth Division, so many of, in mind, I clearly envision!

The American GI

Each time I turn my eyes, they come into view! Those stalwart G. I.s that I once knew. Sgt. Eiler, Cpl. Grubb and all those vets who saw the war through.

Not all names are clear, but visualized are a great number, All envisioned at a time when German 88's thundered!

'Tis warming how in mind, they so clearly stand out!

So much so, that I'm inclined to shout: "Move it, you men! We haven't all day to idle and wonder, there's an enemy at bay!"

Seated up on the balcony near where endless waves steadily roar to mind comes days when G. I.'s engaged in a war.

Yes, a note of sadness filters in When I closely scan the names of him and him.

I read these names, many known to me, But in mind, plain to see, Are countless deeds of bravery.

With thoughts of home and loved ones too, G. I.s did what they had to do. Despite unseemingly odds - no need for fame,

Knowing the struggle involved was not a game. On they went to crush the foe. 'Twas a fight for loved ones, they did know.

Whether then or now, 'twas a price hat's paid For a world full of peace for which they prayed.

**Are You
Up To Date
With Your Dues?**

9TH QM. CO.

Everett N. Tapp

Hope this finds you two doing O.K. health wise in our Golden Years. As for myself, I'm doing OK now but for past two months I have been fighting a virus or a cold but back to 100 % at this time.

Here is a check for the Memorial Fund in memory of our Michigan Chapter Billie Martin whom we lost Oct. 29, 2002 and for the expenses of printing the Octofoil as I am a life member. We missed you two down at Pigeon Forge, Tenn. last year, but looking forward to seeing your smiling faces at Lancaster in April.

Below is a picture of five of us taken at an 80th Birthday Party for myself, July 27th, 2002. It was a catered-in sit-down

Dinner hosted by two of my daughters at my Community Center here in Grass Lake, Michigan. Had a great party as 50 family members and friends attended.

I got several Christmas cards from Army buddies with some who promised to see us in Pennsylvania in April and I personally would like to see Chester Herbe and Marvin Balthaser. Both from Reading, Pa. only 40-50 miles NE of Lancaster to make it down to our reunion.

The older I get the more I look forward for the Octofoil and our get-togethers such as our out of state Meeting and our National Reunions, and the weeks go by like the days used to.

So you two take care and again I hope to see you in Lancaster in late April.

P.S. On back of photo are the names. Each is approximately 100 miles North and East of my location.



**STEPHEN W. SPRINDIS, SR.
60TH E. CO. COMMANDER
1ST BN. COMMANDER**

Stephen W. Sprindis, Sr. of Christian Lane, Brookfield, devoted husband of Phoebe (Sharra) Sprindis, died on Friday, December 20th, at the age of 82.

Mr. Sprindis was born on May 1, 1920, son of the late Charles and Mary Sprindis in Haverhill, MA. He was educated in Danbury and lived in the area for most of his life.

Mr. Sprindis was a Veteran of World War II, serving in the United States Army. While serving in North Africa he was advanced to the rank of First Lieutenant following receipt of the award of the Silver Star for gallant action during combat. When news of his gallantry reached General George S. Patton, the General asked Mr. Sprindis his name. "Second Lt. William Sprindis, Sir," he replied. "You," said Patton, "are a First Lieutenant, sir, not a Second Lieutenant."

Mr. Sprindis was the recipient of four Silver Stars, two

Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and the Pearl Harbor Medal. During his military career, Mr. Sprindis attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

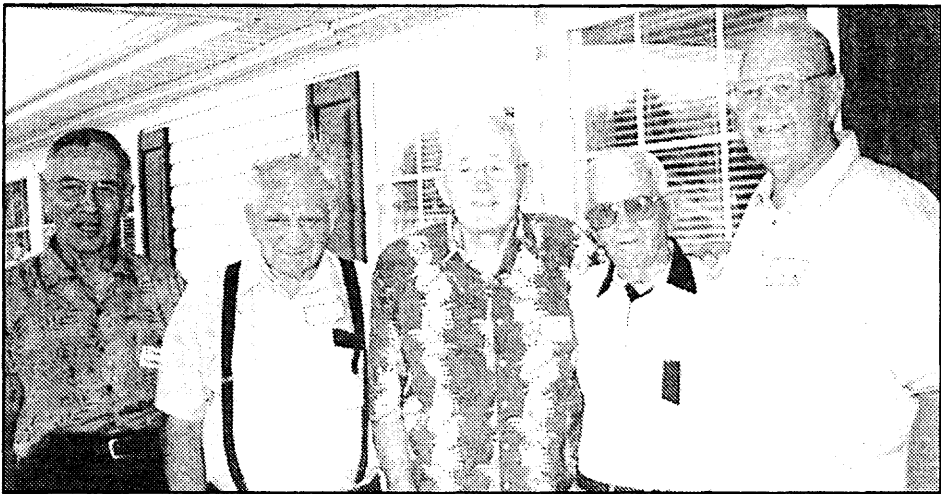
After the war, Mr. Sprindis was active in Danbury politics, serving as First Selectman in 1945. He was a Purchasing Agent at Perkin Elmer for twenty-three years, retiring in 1982. He enjoyed playing golf in Florida and Connecticut.

Besides his loving wife of 56 years, Mr. Sprindis is survived by his devoted sons, Stephen, Jr. and his wife Marlana of Brookfield; John C. of Danbury and Allan R. and his wife, Christina of New Milford. He will also be missed by his grandson, Christopher and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother, Albert, and a sister, Helen.

Friends may call on Sunday, December 22nd at the Brookfield Funeral Home, 786 Federal Road, Brookfield, between the hours of 6 and 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, December 23rd at St. Joseph Church Brookfield, at 10:00 am., with burial to follow with full military honors at St. Peter Cemetery in Danbury.

Donations can be made in the memory of Stephen W. Sprindis, Sr. to the Praxair Cancer Center, c/o Dr. Pezzimenti, 24 Hospital Avenue, Danbury, Connecticut 06810.



All Attending Everett's 80th Birthday Party. (Left to right) Elmer Wagner, John Bonkowski, Rodger Alsgaard, Everett Tapp, Tom Hatton.

**COMPANY K
CHESTER H. GORDON**

47th Infantry, 9th Division

The stealth out of WWII

All good things and some bad (As WE all know) must come to an end. This shall be the last copy of the K/47 newsletter.

It is probably a fitting time when the ARMY COMMAND is more interested in women, queers, head gear and Political Correctness than fighting a war. Despite my warnings, they still have far too many troops in Afghanistan serving as moving targets for the leftover Taliban, using leftover Russian arms. Let all those peaceful European nations turn it into a socialist paradise financed with EUROS.

Daschel and Gore cry "What does GODDAMN HUSSEIN have to do with the ALCADA?" it seems to me that ole' DOUBLE-U said, "War on TERRORISM," not just one practitioner. If they think that HUSSEIN is going to show his weapons to the UN, they are way out on some drug of choice. He will show us HIS weapons when we show him OURS.

They also say, "We shouldn't dilute our effort to get BIN LADEN!" What kind of army is suited to look for a handful of RAG HEADS? not ours! Perhaps a company or two of Special Service troops could be delegated for this duty, and the army can do what it was trained to do. This doesn't mean guard duty, keeping non-Muslims from killing Muslims and vice versa, We should break old WILLIE FASTZIPPER's contract to stand between people who have been mortal enemies for centuries and will be for centuries more. Get those soldiers out of there and use them as an army, not a police force.

When you come right down to it, I am for withdrawing from the UN and NATO and any other body made-up of our enemies. The only vote that most of the UN delegates have is in the UN. Give the UN Complex to NY City, and let the European, African, or Asiatic nations host the CRUD that flaunts their laws with impunity. I expect that money laundering and dope traffic would drop precipitously if the UN Diplomatic Pouches were

I am not entirely sure the army can handle a war,

every time they go out, they have more casualties from friendly fire than the enemy. Of course, now days, with the MEDIA doing our tactical as well as strategic planning, waging war is not as simple as it was in our day. we didn't have to face scorn or legal action if one of our shot, shell or bomb went astray and killed an innocent bystander, or even have to prove they were innocent. Don't they realize that Asian War Lords like Hussein will use their PEONS as shields from attack; he is a bastard, but not a stupid bastard.

No matter their job, everyone in the Infantry now RIDES to work, either in a plane, helicopter, tank or personnel carrier. Even with its drawbacks (As we found riding tanks, in our war) I believe I'd rather ride. The Infantry needs a new name. The French Infant or Boy will no longer suffice, how about ADULTERY?

If they keep on having these Moslem wars, I hope they change the 47th from a training battalion to a regiment or brigade and let them add streamers to our flag.

ROLL CALL

As it happens, no one but JOE and HELEN ever contacts me, so I am in the dark, as usual.

• JOE KILLACKY, as bents as befits a kid in his seventies, is in good health, enjoying his grand children and a round or two of golf when it's not snowing.

• HELEN HOLMES. The consummate NURSE will never die, she'll wheel some poor Joe through the Pearly Gates on JUDGMENT DAY. Since she couldn't attend my cancer or my wife's stroke, she sent a beautiful bouquet. MANY THANKS HELEN! I am beginning to think that boat she and George stand next to at reunion is a painted flat.

• GEORGE BASTEDO "Good officers are getting harder to find." He probably said that in 1943.

• RED THOMPSON RED is in poor health, but there are not too many in their nineties in good health. He said, "Good luck and God bless America!"

• Dr. GEORGE NICKLIN seems to be in good health, still fleecing the forlorn at a grand/hour. He has renewed acquaintance with an old undergraduate classmate who matriculated in the 39th. Unfortunately, his friend didn't enjoy his tour as much as George.

Incompetent leadership, or something like that.

• SCOOP GILLESPIE The last time I heard from scoop he was calling me every name in the book for recommending the book, "WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT AMERICA?" Seems like I threatened his manhood. I don't expect to hear from him again.

FINIS

Around April or May, I was about to have my sixth mouth cancer cut out, when despite having had it biopsied, the doctor thought I should have a \$4,000.00 Pet Scan. After the PS doctor had read his tea leaves, he came out and said, "I've got bad news and good news. The good news is that you have no cancer in your mouth, the bad is that you have one in your lung." Well, I knew I had one in my mouth, so maybe he was 100% wrong.

After my mouth healed, I went to my lung doctor. to find out about the PET doctor's batting average. He sent me to a CAT scan that proved the PET man was batting 500. The doctor said I didn't have enough lung capacity to qualify for surgery, so it was radiation, chemotherapy, or OUT. Having had radiation and heard about chemo, they were not options for me, I chose death. I asked how it would play out, and he said, "Badly, you'll lose weight, strength, breath, and it could move to any part of your body to do its dirty work."

It seems that moving to my brain and causing a stroke would be optimum. I am thinking about moving to Michigan, committing a crime and be sentenced to share a cell with KEVORKIAN.

In any case, writing another NEWSLETTER seems unlikely, but if the MIRACLE happens I might pull a LILLY LANGTRY. I DO NOT NEED YOUR SYMPATHY NOR CONCERN. I have had a good, and surprisingly long life, since I didn't think I would make 22. I have lived as I wished, have a great wife and three great sons, and no regrets. I have always maintained my debts on a current basis and do not believe I owe anyone anything except, GOOD-BYE, IT'S BEEN GOOD TO KNOW YOU!

MAIL CALL

39TH INF. - I CO.

Donald E. Lavender
2913 49th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310
E-Mail: donlav@juno.com

I believe my dues ran out at the end of 2002. Enclosed is my check for three more years.

We have more than our share of obituaries to report from our own Division, but I would like to recognize the passing of Bill Mauldin. His cartoons provided levity when we needed it the most on those dark days of combat. I still look at his book "Up Front" every now and then and enjoy those cartoons as much as when I first saw them.

All good wishes to our veteran 9th members.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Re: Henry Jackson Gordon; 34th Field Artillery Bn., 9th Division.

To Whom It May Concern:

The referenced soldier passed away on June 12, 2001. He served in the 34th Field Artillery Bn. of the 9th Infantry Division from the invasion of North Africa in November, 1942, to the surrender of the Nazi government in May, 1945. My reason for writing is this: I am Richard S. Gordon, the eldest son of Henry. I have the Soldier's Medal that Henry was awarded in 1945. However, I cannot find among my father's papers and effects the written citation describing what he did to earn the medal. I have submitted a written request to the records repository of the Department of Defense, but have not received any meaningful response.

Therefore, I would like to know if any of your subscribers might have knowledge of the incident in which Henry was involved, and which led to his receiving the Soldier's Medal. If so, please do communicate with me. I would like to preserve the historical record for my family. I shall very much appreciate any assistance I might receive.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Richard S. Gordon

SEEKING E. CO. 39TH INFO.

Lou Virgillo

Forked River, NJ 08731

My father served with the 9th Infantry Division 39th Regiment in WWII. He was in E company. I would like to find out a few things about his path during the war if it is possible. I would like to write down as many accounts as I can for my children.

1) Are there any men (from WWII) left from the 39th E company?

2) How many original men from Fort Bragg N.C. returned after the war? 9th Division? 39th Regiment? E Company?

3) He was wounded in France on July 24th; where was E company at that time?

4) He received the Purple Heart at station 8 hospital in England. Where was that?

5) He received the Bronze Star for duty from Oct. 31 to Dec. 31, 1944. Where was 39th/E company during those periods?

6) Did E company or the 39th go to Berlin?

7) Was E co./ 39th involved in D4 at Utah Beach?

8) Was E co./ 39th under Patton in Africa?

My father never really spoke that much about the war. I am reading the book he left, 8 Stars to Victory, to find what I can. I would appreciate any information you may have that would help answer some of these questions. Please find a check enclosed for my association dues.

TOP KICK'S LETTER THANKS FOR SPEAKING OUT.

We were in our Co. CP near the front line in Germany in February 1945. Capt. McWaters, XO 1st Lt. Jordan, and 1st Sgt. George Bastedo were discussing orders from the rear. One man from K was to be sent on a 30-day furlough to the States. I was first in line for the furlough because of my longevity in action. My hopes were immediately crushed when McWaters said I was needed at the CP and the next man would go. Then without hesitation, the firm voice of Lt. Jordan was heard: "Let Bastedo go - he's had enough!" There was a moment of silence. I was worried as I had just witnessed an XO go over the head of his commanding officer. Then McWaters said, "You can go, but promise me you will phone my wife as soon as you get home and tell her I am all right." Lt. Jordan's un-asked for opinion must have awakened McWater's sense of fair play, which made me the lucky guy who would be out of the combat zone and back in the USA for 30 days!

It took about two months to get home, and VE day happened while I was home,

so my infantry career was over!

Not only did Chesta Jordan give me a much needed furlough, but the three months away from the front could easily have saved my life!

So many thanks to a man who always speaks out.

George Bastedo

JORDAN'S NOTE: I am not as sure as George that McWaters had a sense of fair play, or any sense at all.

TO ALL MEMBERS:

We want to accommodate our people and make them comfortable. The hotel is trying to get our rooms as close to the lobby as possible. If you need a special type of room please advise us immediately. Try to be assigned a room numbered between 201 to 347 and 401 to 547. We would like to keep your walking distances to as little as possible. Consult our site plan for the room locations.

One other thing: I would like to have anyone who made reservations and DID NOT send me strip ticket money to get on the ball. Also anyone who sent me strip ticket money and DID NOT make reservations to please do so right away. It would help to make the time more enjoyable for all concerned.

Thank you very much and if God spares we will see you in April.

If anyone wants to contact me, my address is:

Albert M. Perna

60TH INF. - K CO.

William H. Clements
80 Delmore Drive
Hillsboro, TX 76645

Just received the Octofoil; don't know about my dues. I am sending ten more dollars just in case they are due.

Reading James Hart article about Williamson and Slick Wilson, I knew them both. Was in K Co. when they got out of OCS and joined the company. I never knew what happened to Williamson, but stayed with Keene Wilson all through the eight major campaigns. Wound up in Ingolstadt, Germany. Told Slick "bye," and headed for home.

As General Eddy said, "You boys don't worry about going to heaven because you have already been through hell." God Bless the Old Reliabilities and the rest of the Ninth Division.



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

Jen Swayze Street Gunn
Wife of Gen. Frank Gunn

Billie Martin
Btry A 26th F. A.

Francis Fitzgerald
Co. D 60th Inf.

John (JW) Baswell
Co. E 60th Inf.

Clarence Combs
Co. E 47th Inf.

Leonard Florio
Hq. Co. 47th Inf.

Robert Hamlett

John Przybylski
Co. I 47th Inf.

John D. O'Rourke
60th Inf. & Div. Hq. Co.

Taylor D. Wilkins

James Ray Deston
Co. L 39th Inf.

Lyle E. Vail
Co. M 47th Inf.

B. Clayton Huggins
Co. M 47th Inf.

Joseph Kaminski
Co. M 47th Inf. Medic

Warren Evans
Co. A 47th Inf.

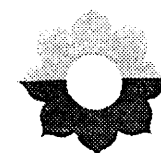
Harold McCutcheon
Service Btry. 34th F.A.

Stephen W. Sprindis, Sr.
Co. E & 1st Bn. 60th Inf.

James E. Miller
3rd Bn. Hq. 39th Inf.

William (Bill) Mauldin
"Stars & Stripes" Cartoonist

**Are You
Up To Date
With your
Dues?**



**Deadline for next issue of "The Octofoil"
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