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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, January/February 2004

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 LIX Number 1

Jan. - Feb. 2004

You Can Request Records Online

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is working to make it easier for veterans with Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members can use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Others who need documents must still complete the Standard Form 180 which can be downloaded from the web site.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

Veterans and next of kin may access this application at vetrecs.archives.gov. Please note there is no "www" in the address.

(This information was obtained from "Army Echoes" "The bulletin for the Army retiree" Issue 2, Volume XLVII for our use by member & PP George H. Brown.)

Department of the Army
Office of the Inspector General
Assistance Division

This is a final response to your August 3, 2003 letter to the Army Inspector general concerning your request for your military records from the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, that were destroyed in the 1973 fire.

The Inspector General has reviewed your matter of concern. Our office has determined that your issues cannot be resolved by the IG system.

On July 12, 1973, a fire did destroy approximately 16 to 18 million Official Military Personnel Files at the NPRC in Saint Louis, MO. The Army personnel that were affected by the fire are those that were discharged from the Army, between November 1, 1912 to January 1, 1960. You may request that the NPRC attempt to reconstruct your military records, however, they will need as much detailed information about your time in service that you can provide. I have enclosed a copy of the SF Form 180 application for your use.

The NPRC web page is: <http://www.archives.gov> should you desire more information. Once their inquiry is complete, the NPRC will reply directly to you.

We trust the information provided will be of assistance to you. We have assigned case number, DIH 00-0000 to these matters.

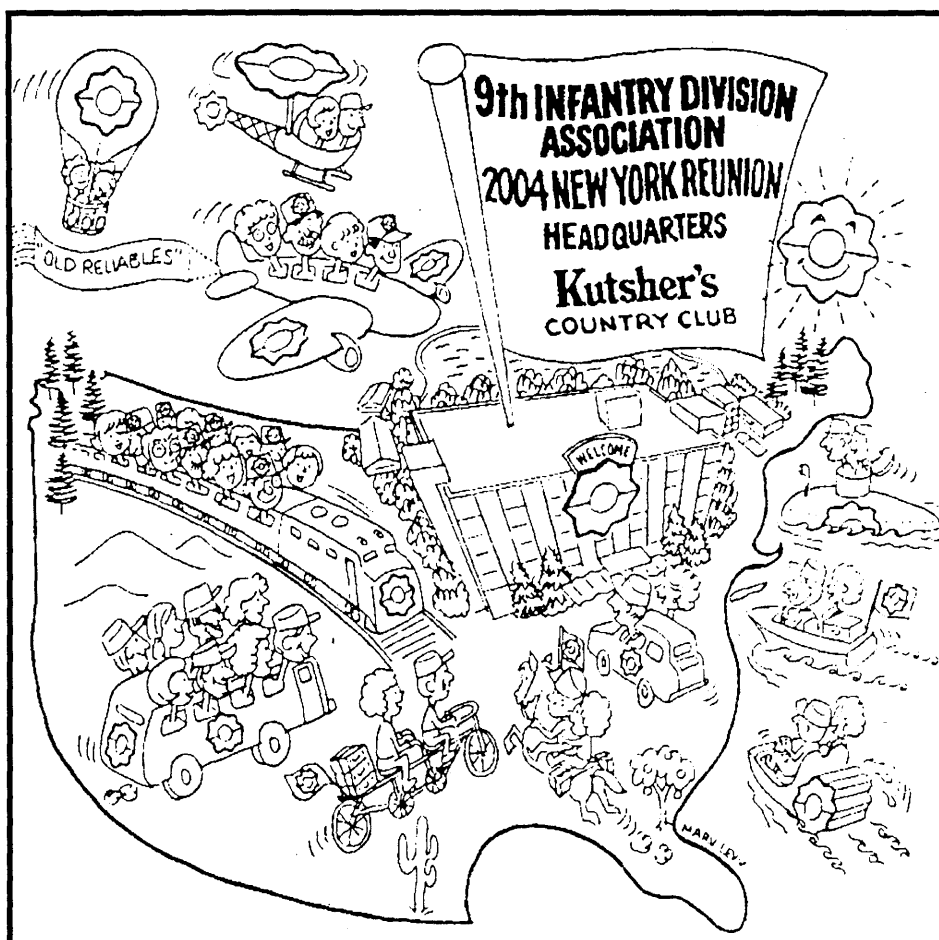
(Ed. Note: The above letter was sent by R.M.A. Hirst to the OCTOFOIL. It reinforces the Army's position for obtaining your military records as stated in the information supplied by Geogre H. Brown)

NATIONAL ORDER of BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS

National Order of Battlefield Commissions is trying to locate all men, WWII, Korea and Viet-Nam, who on the field of battle against an armed enemy received a commission from enlisted or Warrant status to commission status. It may be you or someone you know.

Contact: John Angier

for more info
visit www.battlefieldcommissions.org



KUTSCHER'S WELCOMES THE 9th INF. DIV. ASSN. 59th REUNION

Kutsher's Country Club Resort Hotel
Monticello, New York

Monday to Thursday, May 10-13, 2004

Check your calendars. In just about two months from now we shall all be meeting up in the Catskill Mountains at this internationally famous hotel - - Kutsher's. We hope that your reservation has been sent in to Reunion Chairman Joe Killen, but if not, don't delay. Fill out the reservation form on page two of this OCTOFOIL and send it in right away. Kutsher's accommodations, dining, activities and entertainment are now in readiness for our enjoyment. Don't miss out on this yearly chance to meet with your World War II buddies and share some time together in the pleasant surroundings, all for a modest price. Remember that there are NO STRIP TICKETS.

The one price covers three delicious meals every day for three days, three nights of shows in the Stardust Room, our own "Welcome" beer party, entertainment in the Upper Lobby mornings and afternoons for those who don't have to attend meetings, and a cocktail party with open bar and hot and cold d'oeuvres on Wednesday prior to our banquet. There is an indoor swimming pool and a fitness center for our use. Believe me, bargains like this do not come along every day.

Some members have written in say that they had such a nice time at Kutsher's the last time that we were there. They are looking forward to this reunion. So far, the reservations have been coming in at a decent pace, we have 138 people in 68 rooms. Both sons and daughters are attending with their parent, or parents as the case may be. Buddies are sharing a room, or are in adjoining rooms. Some of the widows of our members are doubling up together. This is a very important event in our lives. Every year there are less and less of our "regular attendees". We should not let the opportunity to slap each other on the back pass by because "tomorrow" that back may no longer be there to slap.

Think about it. Opportunities like this are not that frequent in our future. The Hotel management would like our roster of attendees to be in their hands by April 12. That is a reasonable request. They have to prepare for our visit, and we should be able to work hand in hand with the people who will be trying to make our stay as pleasant as possible. You can help by sending in your reservation form with the deposit without delay.

TIP OF THE HAT

Remembering the Memorial Fund and their buddies who have answered their last Roll Call, we thank the following members and friends.

Mrs. Helen P. Dixon in memory of her husband, Homer W. Dixon of Co. G - 47th Inf.

Mrs. Helen P. Dixon in memory of her son, Homer William Dixon Jr.

Elmer Wagner in memory of long time member Gene Reedy, of Battery A -34th F. A. Bn.

John Bonkowski in memory of Gene Reedy of Battery A - 34th Field Artillery Bn.

Frank A. Meanor in memory of Leon R. Birum and James Swotchak, both of the 34th F. A.

George H. Brown in memory of Sheldon B. Stoddard of Battery B - 34th Field Artillery

Bill Nelson in memory of Albert Willingham of Hq. Battery - 34th Field Artillery

John Bonkowski in memory of Billie Martin of Battery A - 26th Field Artillery Bn.

George A. Pedrick, Jr. of Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. 39th Inf. in memory of his wife Helen.

Herb Stern in memory of Pete Radichio of Co. B - 9th Medical Bn.

Walter Pochis in memory of all of the members of the 9th Medical Bn.

Rosemarie Werkman in memory of her husband, Henry T. Werkman.

Petrina Cordes in memory of James E. Miller of Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. - 39th Infantry.

Mrs. Dolores Bolognese in memory of her husband, Anthony of Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. - 47th Inf.

Salvatore Albanese in memory of the fallen members of Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. - 60th Inf.

Wilbert D. Skinn in memory of the fallen members of F Co. - 60th Infantry Regt.

Sam A. Trapasso in memory of his fallen buddies from G Co. - 60th Infantry Regt.

James C. Popeski in memory of Matt Urban and fallen members of E Co. - 60th Inf. Regt.

William H. Nelson in memory of Lorna Mickelson, widow of Thomas O. from Co. K - 39th.

Brig. Gen. Frank L. Gunn in memory of his beloved wife, Jen Swayze Street Gunn.

Elmer Wagner in memory of Michigan Chapter member, Art Doering of Co. H - 60th Inf.

Joe Killen in memory of a good friend, Frank S. Kowalik of Co. C - 9th Medical Bn.

Aldor and Vicky Cook in memory of Frank S. Kowalik of Co. C - 9th Medical Battalion

Marian E. Cook in memory of her husband, Lester V. Cook of Service Co. - 60th Inf.

Bill Nelson in memory of a good friend, George Booth of Cannon Co. - 39th Inf.

Jessie Arnold in memory of her husband, William Arnold of Cannon Co. and K Co.

Marvin Toothaker in memory of his buddy, Leonard West of Co. D - 39th Inf.

Eugenia Gansca in memory of Richard A. O'Connor of Battery B - 84th Field Artillery Bn.

Ladies Corner

Here's hoping the OCTOFOIL gets to you before the New York Reunion. Remember to bring a Polyanna Gift with you for the Ladies Aux. meeting. There is no place there to buy anything except in the Gift Shop at the hotel.

Don't forget to bring the name and address of any VA Hospital where you believe a donation from the Ladies Aux. would be in order. This matter will be brought up and voted upon at our meeting.

I heard from Ellen Schumacher who is our Chaplin. She mentioned that husband Paul took her to Europe in December. I also spoke to Judy Goldsmith, our Vice-President and Secretary. She and Willie just got back from a tour in Italy.

I would not mind taking a trip over there in the near future. Henry would not mind seeing Utah Beach, Cherbourg, St. Mere Eglise, St. Lo, and all of those other places where his Company L traveled 60 years ago. Of course, a side trip to see Paris is also a must, and a look at the Rhine River to see where the Ludendorff Bridge once stood. Oh, well, we'll see.

They say Spring is just around the corner. I wish. This week here in Allentown we are supposed to get hit with another snow storm. The snow from the last one is still on the ground. We had a day of rain and then that froze. I can't wait to see the Spring flowers pop up.

Stay well and I'll see you at Kutsher's in May.

Jean Geary, Ladies Aux. President

Sons and Daughters of the NINTH

Calling All Descendants of the veterans of the 9th Infantry Division

All sons, daughters, grandchildren, (and other descendants too) are invited to become part of a new group forming to support the 9th Infantry Division Association. Please send your contact information (name, address, email address, and the name of the member of the 9th Infantry Division to whom you are related, and your relationship to the member) to

Mary Blann Cooper

The members of our generation are planning to organize those that are interested, and work to help out our Heroes at the reunions with registration, and other reunion arrangements, etc. as well as be a support group for each other. We had fun at the Lancaster, PA reunion last year meeting as a group (after the day's events were over) and working the registration table. We were privileged to meet with some members of our generation who had never been to a reunion before . . . and in one heart-warming case we were able to find a member of the 9th who knew the late father of a member of our generation who never knew his Dad and he got to talk to him for a couple of hours.

We will be sending out our own newsletters to inform you of information for the reunion, some 9th Division history and up coming events available to you. Come join us and be part of the Sons and Daughters of the 9th Infantry Division Association.

That's it, see ya in May.

Mary Blann Cooper

Editor's Note : I believe that if the Sons and Daughters of the Ninth group are to succeed, and I hope that they do, it is up to the regular readers of the OCTOFOIL to show the above notice to their offspring so that the word gets around to all of the descendants. Let us leave no stone un-turned. We have to help them before they can help us.

Airport Information for Reunion Travelers Thru STEWART INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

For STEWART INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT information telephone: 1-(845) 564- 2100

These airlines service STEWART INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT . Their telephone numbers are
U.S. Airways Express (Connecting thru Philadelphia) 800-428- 4322
American Eagle (Connecting thru Chicago) 800-433-7300
Comair/Delta Connection (Connecting thru Cincinnati). 800-354- 9822
Southeast Airlines (Direct flights to STEWART from Orlando, St. Petersburg, and Ft. Lauderdale) 800-359- 7325

The Deadline for the submission of copy
for the next issue is
April 20th.

TAPS SOUNDED

O Lord support us all the day long
Until the shadows lengthen and our work is done
Then in Thy Holy Mercy grant us a safe lodging
And a Holy Rest and Peace at last...

TAPS SOUNDED

Lorna Mickelson, Wife of
Mickelson
Co. K - 39th Infantry

Rose Marie Popeski, Wife of
James C. Popeski
Co. E - 60th Infantry

Frank S. Kowalik
Co. C - 9th Medical Bn.

Eugene Reedy
Bttry A - 34th Field

Chester Zarnowski
Bttry D - 376th AAA - AW

Salvatore J. Demma
Co. K - 47th Infantry

Helen Pedrick, Wife of Thomas
George A. Pedrick
Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. - 39th Infantry

Homer W. Dixon Jr., Son of
1st Sgt. Homer W. Dixon
Co. G - 47th Infantry

Victor D. Daumit
9th Division Band

John E. Ahern
Co. M - 60th Infantry

Joseph T. Vanni
Anti Tank Co. - 47th Infantry

Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. - 39th Inf.
James Eldred Miller

Please find enclosed sum in memory of James Eldred Miller, who passed to the next world on July 19, 2002. I do not know if any of his family members passed this information on to you. In any case The Octofoil was eagerly received and read by Jim each time it arrived.

I was Jim's companion for 3 and 1/2 years following the death of his wife. The very first thing he did each morning was honor and remember his brave companions who gave their lives for their country. He always said, "Those were the heroes, not me." Even though he was involved in 8 campaigns with the 9th Infantry Division, from North Africa straight thru to the end in Germany. He wore a 9th Infantry medallion each day of his life in remembrance of his buddies.

In March 2002 Jim went to Mayo Clinic for a needed heart surgery. He planned it that way so he would be well enough to attend the reunion at Pigeon Forge in May 2002. However that was not to be. The surgery was unsuccessful and Jim died July 19, 2002.

I kept a copy of The Octofoil until now, so luckily I have an address to send this to. Jim was proud to be a member of the 9th Infantry Division. I do not know his serial number or any of that information. Jim remained vibrant and sturdy and full of the joy of life, even after he became ill. He never gave up. What a wonderful and patriotic human being. Jim is buried at Fort Snelling Military Cemetery in Minneapolis, and was honored with the 21 gun salute that he so richly deserved.

May his brave soul rest in peace.

Sincerely,
Petrina Cordes



***From the Albany Times Union
of February 21, 2004 :***

FRANK S. KOWALIK

WATERFORD, N.Y. - Frank S. Kowalik, 88, of Murray Avenue, Waterford, N. Y., died Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at his home embraced by his devoted wife Elizabeth J. (Betty) Roberts Kowalik and other loving members of his family.

Born in Cohoes, N.Y., Frank received his education in the Cohoes school system and retired in 1978 from the New York Telephone co., where he was employed as a repairman and an installer, also working with PBX. He was a communicant of St. Mary's of the Assumption Church in Waterford and a member of the VFW in Waterford.

In 1941, Frank entered the U. S. Army serving proudly until June of 1946 as a Technician 5th grade with the 9th Infantry Division, 9th Medical Battalion, Co. C. He participated in eight major campaigns of World War II, Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. Among the medals awarded to Frank are the American Defense Medal, the Europe, Africa and Middle East Campaigns Medal, the American Theatre Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Surviving him, besides his wife Betty of 57 years, is a brother, Joseph V. Kowalik of Harrisburg, PA and several nieces and nephews, grandnieces and nephews. Frank was predeceased by his siblings, Stephen, George, and Frances Kowalik. After a Monday morning Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, Waterford 9:30 a.m., interment will take place in St. Mary's Cemetery, Waterford with full military honors.

Co. C - 9th Medical Bn.
Aldor Cook

This donation is in memory of Frank Kowalik of the 9th Inf. Div., 9th Medical Battalion, Co. C. Frank has been a close friend of ours since the war. He died peacefully.

Good luck with the reunion.
From Aldor and Vicky Cook

***From the Annapolis, MD Capital Newspaper of
February 6, 2004***

VICTOR DAVID DAUMIT

Victor David Daumit, 85, who taught movie stars, politicians and other Washingtonians how to dance, died Feb. 2 at his home in Annapolis. Formerly of Silver Spring, he moved here 18 years ago.

Mr. Daumit opened the Vic Daumit Dance Studio in Washington, D.C., in 1948, operating the company and teaching there until the day he died. As a child, he danced in the street for coins. He became one of the most popular ballroom dancers in the Washington area, choreographing shows and performing at embassies and country clubs. He was a regular dance teacher at Congressional Country Club.

His students included the Nixon daughters, former first lady Betty Ford, actress Cybil Sheppard, television pundit Chris Matthews and movie actor Robert Downey Jr. among others.

Born in Washington, Pa., Mr. Daumit graduated from Eastern High School in Washington, D.C. in 1939. He served in the Army's 9th Infantry Division from 1940 to 1945, fighting in North Africa and Sicily, at the Battle of the Bulge and on D-day. He received the Bronze Star Medal and a Purple Heart.

Surviving are his wife, Betty Burrows Daumit, whom he married on Sept. 7, 1947; one son; three daughters; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was buried on Wednesday, Feb. 11, in Arlington National Cemetery.

From the Greenville, SC News of February 25, 2004

HOMER WILLIAM DIXON JR.

Homer William "Dick" Dixon Jr., age 60, of 501 Edwards Road, Greenville, died Sunday, Feb. 22, 2004. Born in Greenville, he was the son of Helen Pettett Dixon and the late Homer William Dixon, a former 1st sgt. of Company G, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division.

Mr. Dixon graduated from Greenville High School in 1961 and attended Clemson University. He was a charter member of John Knox Presbyterian Church.

He was employed by CitiFinancial and previously was employed by Heilig-Myers and Towers Theatre.

Surviving, including his mother, are his son, Richard Dixon; sisters Dorothy and Gail; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services were held at John Knox Presbyterian Church with interment following at Woodlawn Memorial Park.

The family will be at [REDACTED]



Photo caption: Frank S. and Betty Kowalik at the 55th Reunion Memorial Service on May 5th, 2000 held in Kutsher's, Monticello, NY.



CHAPTER REPORTS

Greater New York Area Chapter

There is no New York Chapter meeting report for this issue of the OCTOFOIL. Since our previously reported December 19, 2003 meeting, the Chapter decided to defer January and February winter meetings until March 19, 2004. (The severe cold and snow conditions in the Northeast have proved that it was the right decision.)

This reporter, in the meantime, has been in touch with some Chapter members. Sad to say most of our buddies and their families are battling declining health in their Golden Years. For the most part, however, despite various ills and operations many are optimistic and in good spirits.

Ninthmen I have been in touch with are: Anton Dietrich, Adolph Wadalavage, Dan Quinn, Tony Varone, Gerry Levinson, Carl Winter, Joe Killen and Charlie LiBretto. Our newly elected Chapter President Joe Maiale and his wife Sadie and Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Al Zenka and his better half Geneieve, are enjoying the winter in sunny Florida. They should be back in time for our March meeting.

News from our reunion chairman Joe Killen indicates there has been a good response for reservations to the 9th Division's 59th Reunion at Kutsher's Hotel and Country Club in Monticello, NY set for a May 10th start.

For all buddies on sick call we wish them a quick recovery and hope to see them at our next Chapter meeting at the Franklin Square Library on Lincoln Road, Franklin Square, Long Island, NY, on March 19th starting at 1:00 PM.

A reminder for Chapter Members: If you haven't paid your dues now's the time to do so. 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,

Marv Levy, Co. A - 60th Inf.
2044 Ellen Drive

Michigan Chapter News

Twenty-six people attended our Christmas dinner at the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn: Tom Hatton, Elmer Wagner, Clyde & Ann LaBrenz, Floyd Hennessey & Jeanette Williams, Harry & Blondine Sager, Marilyn Martin, Everett Tapp, John & Rose Bonkowski, Lynn & Stella Bowers, Mary Doering, Laurel & Margaret Wisniewski, Lucile & Susan Andrews, Tom & Carol Saunders, Don & Bobbi Sedestrom, Jim Dawson, Erwin & Betty Schmidt.

Following the family style chicken dinner, Chapter President Everett Tapp conducted a business meeting. A memorial was sent to the Caledonia American Legion Post No. 305 in memory of Art Doering.

Mary Doering offered to host our memorial service and summer picnic at her home on Saturday, August 14, 2004 in Alto, MI.

Our annual October get-together with the Illinois Chapter will be ended due to ownership changes at the Ramada Hotel and its restaurant. Jim Dawson offered to host a fall get-together in October 2004 at his home at Houghton Lake. A date will be decided later. The annual Christmas dinner party will be Wednesday, December 8 at the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn.

The 2004 National Reunion is at Kutsher's Resort Hotel, Monticello, NY (in the Catskills) Monday thru Thursday May 10 - 13. Details are in the OCTOFOIL.

Chapter Members: If your dues are due, please send a check made out to "Michigan Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assn." to Margaret Wisniewski, 7576 Gratiot Rd., Columbus, MI 48063.

Margaret Wisniewski
Secretary, Michigan Chapter

The Ninth Recon Outlook

St. Valentine's was a busy and sad week-end for us. We paid our last respects to a good Michigan Chapter buddy, Gene Reedy. He died suddenly and unexpectedly while arrangements were being made for a pace maker implant. Just three weeks before he passed away, Gene had had a successful hip replacement and was doing very well.

There aren't that many of us left around here. Only a few were able to make it to the Funeral Home. Tom Saunders came from across town Friday evening and our Michigan Chapter President, Everett Tapp drove a hundred miles to attend the Service Saturday noon. The burial took place up North at a family plot. A Luncheon was served at the VFW Bruce Post and we had a little time to spend with the family.

There were two messages waiting when we came home. One came from our Recon Buddy, "Cappy" Capobianco in Branford, CT and the other from our great friend, Henry Shimkoski in Worcester, MA. I called back and it was pleasant to chat with the both of them. It cheered us up to see the OCTOFOIL also waiting when we arrived. But, it is also sad to see all those names in the "Taps Sounded" column.

One of them was Peter Radichio whose picture with Margie taken at the last Reunion appears on the same page. As most of you know, Pete and I worked together on The Matt Urban Monument Project. With the permission of Mrs. Jennie Urban and the generous support from the Members, Friends, Chapters, and Posts of the Ninth Infantry Division Association and The Polish Legion of American Veterans this became a reality at the

Dedication of Matty's Monument on April 1, 2000 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Although Peter didn't live to see the day when the Memorial site will be placed on the official list of guided tour attractions, our effort will go on till this is accomplished. again I appeal to everyone who visits Arlington National Cemetery, please go to the Information Center and inquire about Matty's grave site. We must convince them there is public interest if we are to succeed. A letter to the Superintendent would help. You may write to:

Mr. John C. Metzler Jr.
Office of the Superintendent
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA 22211 - 5003

Matty will be eligible for a commemorative postage stamp next year. It will be the 10th anniversary of his death on March 4, 2005. If you have not signed the petition, I'll have it with me at the Reunion. We appreciate your help.

Our reservations are in for the Reunion in May. Rose and I are looking forward to it. God willing it will be great to see everyone again. The time is going fast and it will be here before you know it.

Sincerely,
John Bonkowski

Illinois Chapter Newsletter

We finally received the last issue of the OCTOFOIL on February 5th. The Post Office has not been the same since I no longer work there. We look forward to all the news about our fellow members and events past and future.

The Michigan Chapter informs us that we will no longer be going to Angola, Indiana in the Fall. They were not able to get the same arrangements that we have utilized in the past at the Ramada Inn and restaurant. Our numbers are dwindling and the Hotel wanted a certain number guaranteed. That would not be possible. We have had many happy years together and have many memories of our Mini Reunion.

Not much happening here. We will be getting together with the Hellers and possibly the Elmers when the weather clears and traveling will be easier. At my age - night driving is out of the question so we have to have daytime meetings.

Gordon Anderson is doing well in Alabama with his son. We sure do miss him. We have heard from the Hennemuths and the Clousers at Christmas time as well as from the Clarks. Everyone is holding their own. Paul Clark is still in a nursing home and Lorraine lives nearby with her son.

No plans have been made for the National Reunion yet. We would like to go but driving that distance is not for us anymore. We will be looking into other alternatives of transportation and make a decision soon. (The reunion chair has chalked that statement up as either a "Definite Maybe" or a "Positive Could Be")

Meanwhile, keep up the good work with the OCTOFOIL and we look forward to the next issue.

Respectfully submitted
Mike Belmonte

Florida Chapter Newsletter

IT'S SARASOTA IN 2004 : Thanks to the fine efforts of Dr. Martin Gross, the Florida Chapter will hold its 2004 Annual Reunion in Sarasota, FL. The headquarters will be at the Americ Inns & Suites, 5931 Fruitville Road, (SR 780), just a few miles west of I-75. The dates are November 17, 18, 19 with a departure on Saturday, Nov. 20. Room rates are set at \$59.00 per night, double occupancy. This coming reunion promises to be one of our best. A better than average Continental Breakfast is included with the room rate.

The Reunion Committee is looking into the costs for a Dinner/Show, Boat Ride, Banquet Dinner, and other alternate things to do during the "free time" during the reunion. Stay tuned to the next Florida Chapter Newsletter to learn of the details. An Information Sheet and Order Form will be sent to all dues paying members six weeks prior to opening day.

NEW MEMBER : Paul Crumb, who served as a replacement in Company K, 47th Infantry during the early months of 1945, has found the Ninth Infantry Division Association due to the efforts of Emil J. DeDonato. Paul and his wife Eunice are "Snobirds", wintering in Florida and spending summers in New York State. (Space requirements do not permit the complete thumbnail biography of Paul Crumb as sent by DeDonato) Welcome to another "OLD RELIABLE"

ROSTER UPDATE : John E. Ahern, Co. M - 60th Infantry passed away July 2003. The Officers and Members of the Florida Chapter 9th Infantry Division Association acknowledge with deep regret the passing of our devoted member and comrade. Our condolences go out to Pauline Ahern

Paul F. Crumb

Emil J. DeDonato

MAIL CALL

A Battery - 34th F. A. Bn.

John F. Lannon

[REDACTED]

Thanks for all your good work regarding 9th Div. activities. God bless. Enclosed is a check for the 59th Reunion covering my wife Ruth and myself. We need the "Marquis" (Ultra Deluxe) cause it is closest to the activities. If I'm delinquent I'll pay my dues at Kutsher's.

Re: The photo on page 3 Aug.-Sept. issue (2003) of the OCTOFOIL. I saw that naked man and probably one hundred others. We pulled off the road onto a field at Nordhausen and alongside of a deep trench filled with mostly dead bodies. The trench was the width of a bulldozer blade and several feet deep, approximately a hundred yards long. We were at one end, and at the other end was the bulldozer. Apparently the driver who had just started filling in the trench saw us and ran into the woods. Shock, anger, and sadness was felt by everyone and we wanted to kill Germans; but we got a radio message and we had to 'saddle up' and move on.

How many times have I dreamed of that sight over the years? There were many other sights but none recur as much as this one.

Another topic: You might want to look into a Memorial for Ben Murell, the medic in the 39th Inf. who settled into Hudson, N. Y. and was its supervisor for over 25 years. Benny was a fantastic human being. Always doing good things for people.

In Hudson, he made a Volunteer Fireman's Museum, one of his main activities. I went there on a day trip from Rhode Island. It is in a huge building with over one hundred pieces of fire fighting equipment, many over one hundred years old. Very impressive, it is open for free visits. It is next to a big building housing retired fire fighters. Benny ran Hudson for years. He loved the Yankees and had connections there. He used to pass out baseballs to the kids in Hudson that were deprived.

It might be a great place to have our group to visit and honor one of ours.
Jack Lannon

1st Bn. Medical Detachment - 39th Inf.

Carl F. Leavens

[REDACTED]

Much obliged for the copy of the OCTOFOIL and your analytical letter. Sorry that I missed Pete (Radichio). Maybe I'll meet him in the hereafter. Will you be there?

I've contacted the History printer and purchased a copy. Read it thru and now realize how good we were. I intend to buy another and donate it to our local library. I'm sick and tired of seeing nothing but "Big Red One" history on the shelves.

My "Cisco Kid" goes back to Fort Bragg days - does yours? Enclosed check.

(Ed. note: Answer this guy, Anthony. Don't let him get away!)

Service Co. - 60th Inf.

Ms. Marian E. Cook

[REDACTED]

I hate to admit this, but I am getting older and feel it is time to Thank all who have kept me on the mailing list ever since the death of my husband Lester (L. V.) Cook in 1993.

I have not done this before because it kept me in touch with old friends from Fort Bragg, N.C. With every paper (OCTOFOIL) now there are fewer people that I recognize.

Since I am 83 now and have Parkinson's I don't travel as I used to. No more of the 9th Reunions, etc. This summer I had plans to go to the dedication of the WW II Memorial, but have decided to wait until later. Either June or July and take a trip to D.C. with a daughter, daughter-in-law and a sister-in-law to see it.

Lester V. Cook is on the list and also on the Internet with a picture and all information. He was very proud of his 9th Div., 60th Inf., Service Co. as I was too. Lester was the one who wore his "Go Devil" helmet to the Reunions.

Thank you so much, and best wishes to all of you. Keep up the good work and the reunions. A friend, Marian E. Cook

9th Signal Company

Everett H. Spink

[REDACTED]

Enclosed is check for my 2004 dues to the 9th Division Association. I was a T-5 in the 9th Signal Co. during WW II. I am enclosing an extra \$1.00 for a couple of Decals. I attended the convention in Pigeon forge. Hope all is well with you and your family. I have Arthritis in my knees but outside of that I am still hanging in.
Best Signals, Everett

Co. E - 39th Inf.

Richard L. Solar

[REDACTED]

Enclosed is my check for my reservations to the 59th 9th Inf. Div. Assoc. to be in the Tower. Could we get a Disabled Room and Non Smoking? Would we be able to be near Snuffy Goldsmith from Calif.? Thank you.

Well, Joe, I haven't received an OCTOFOIL since Oct. 2003. I know you have my right address, but if that space or unit 368 isn't on it, I won't get the mail. I surely miss it because I read it over at least three times. If nothing happens, I will see you May 10, 2004.

Co. E - 60th Inf.

James C. Popeski, Sr.

[REDACTED]

Just wanted to let you know that my beloved wife, Rose Marie passed away November 2, 2003 and the funeral was held on our 52nd Wedding Anniversary. She was the most loving wife and mother. She was so good to so many people and her beautiful smile was loved by all.

Enclosed please find my dues money for three years and a memorial in memory of Matt Urban and fallen members of E Co. - 60th Infantry Regt. God Bless all of you.

Sincerely, James C. Popeski, Sr.

P.S. Say hello to Dan Quinn for me.
J.C. P.

Co. C - 39th Inf.

Lee Ellis

[REDACTED]

Howdy, received my OCTOFOIL today as always glad to get it. Just enclosing a personal card showing my new address, so please take note and correct my address. Sure is a lot of work for me to help out the county.

All's well with me, except getting older and don't like to write letters. Oh, these golden years. Yep, they are and taking their toll.
Lee Ellis

Co. I - 39th Inf.

Leo Bank

[REDACTED]

Sorry I fell behind on the dues. I thought I was all paid up because I sent money to the Florida Chapter.

Enclosed is a check for \$75 for a Life Membership. Yours Truly, Leo Bank
(Ed. Note: Thank you, Leo, for making the wise choice.)

Co. G - 39th Inf.

Charles J. Hennesen

[REDACTED]

"Can you advise where a 39th Regimental FLAG can be obtained?"

(Ed. Note: Is there a 39th man out there who can help out a buddy? There's his address.)

Battery B - 84th F. A. Bn.

Mrs. Eugenia Gansca

[REDACTED]

Find the enclosed check for the Memorial Fund in honor of the "falling asleep" of a real good "Buddy" of my husband, Octavian Gansca. To honor Richard A. O'Connor, 84th Field Artillery Bn. - B Battery.

May he and all of the rest, find eternal peace.
Sincerely, Eugenia Gansca

MAIL CALL

Co. C - 60th Inf. Morry & Lucille Gale

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 1st. Morry suffered two strokes in the past three years, and has been in the hospital since Jan. 2, 2004 for major surgery. We have just moved him to a Rehab to rebuild his body from the effects of the surgery and the two strokes.

The OCTOFOIL has been such a favorite of his, but I could not tell if he was current with his dues. His short term memory has been terribly effected and in his confusion, he could not tell me. I searched the OCTOFOIL for a clue as to his due date for dues and found nothing. I am enclosing a check as per your letter. Does this amount cover 2004, and what are the yearly dues? I will keep his dues current so he can once again enjoy the OCTOFOIL. Say a prayer that he will get well and we can bring him home to our new condo. Sincerely, Lucille M. Gale

Co. L - 47th Inf. Anthony DeRobertis

My son, John, will be driving us to the Reunion. It's less than a two hour drive from the Poconos. We were ready to go to the Holiday Party in New York. Too bad we had a snow storm. The date should be changed so that we will have more daylight so that we can travel.

I guess you know that I had an eye Lasik Operation. Now I can see with one eye. My 9th Division first sgt. knew that I could not see and that's why he made me the company runner. He always pointed to the direction that I should run.

I don't know if Muldoon is going to be there, but I will see some of the other "L" Co. guys there. Take care of my room reservation. I will pay the balance there. Hope all is well with the both of you.

Your buddy, Tony.

Battery D - 376th AAA - AW Al Zarnowski

With deep sadness I report to you the passing of one of your proud members. My father, Chester Zarnowski, 376th AAA, passed away on November 4th. He did not suffer, he was enjoying life and all the people who were part of his extended family. In recent years he was a regular attendee to the 9th Infantry Division reunions and also attended last October's "Friends of Father Connors" gathering in Worcester. Although, until recent years, he spoke very little about his military service, it became very clear to me how proud he was to be associated, both in friendship and purpose, with the 9th Infantry Division. He, like many ordinary young people, was called upon to do extraordinary things. When it was over, having witnessed great destruction and sacrifice, he chose to keep those events in the past. He returned home to his wife and met his son for the first time and, like many others, decided to move on with his life building a family, home and career. I would characterize my father's life as a study in

humility, love, compassion and perseverance. He placed great value on simple things as well as the people in his life. These unwavering qualities, I believe, were strengthened by his WWII experience. He will be missed dearly by those whose lives he touched.

In recent years I have gathered many 376th AAA documents. Chester Zarnowski was in charge of gun crew D-3. On March 7, 1945 this unit was among the earliest to be attached to the 9th Armored Division in the crossing of the Ludendorff Bridge. When Battalion orders were issued to set up AAA defenses on the west bank, the After Action documents report that gun crew D-3 had already crossed the Rhine, under heavy fire, to help establish the bridgehead at Erpel.

The enclosed photo, (below), which I thought might be of interest, is an Army Signal Corp shot taken around Monschau during the Battle of the Bulge. Chester is the one with the binoculars. The photograph was printed in various hometown newspapers. My father never thought of himself as a hero; nor would he bring attention to those things. Rather, he was proud, like many of the 9th Infantry veterans I

have been fortunate to meet, to know that he was part of what needed to be done while never forgetting the sorrowful sacrifices of others.

Sincerely, Al Zarnowski

Co. K - 47th Inf. Paul F. Crumb

I never knew or heard of the Association until the local newspaper had a feature article on me and Emil DeDonato contacted me.

I did get the Regiment WW II history sent to me after I got discharged in December 1945. I have cherished it all these years.

I was in the MP's until January '45. During the battle of the Bulge they needed replacements. I went in combat with K Co. at Leige, Belgium and was with them until I got wounded after we crossed the Rhine River at Remagen Bridgehead.

Thank you, Paul F. Crumb



MAIL CALL

Battery A - 60th F. A.
James F. Stebbins

Like a TV commercial I'm going to get right to the point for these few lines to you. The reason is I'm not worth a damn at pushing a pencil.

I'm writing to you in hope that you or someone can give me some information I need and want that I have forgotten. "Believe it or not."

I joined the 9th at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and was a truck driver for Number 1 gun, A Battery, 60th Field Artillery Bn. thru-out the 60th's tour of duty. I joined the 9th at Ft. Bragg while it was pouring down rain, and they had already moved out of the barracks. You can guess the rest. The next day we found our outfit setting up camp out on Chicken Road. To make a three plus year story short, I was with the 60th F. A. all the way till it was over and I was sent home for discharge.

I was lucky, never hurt, never lost a day sick, was with my outfit all the way till I was sent home. Here's what I'm asking for, I know that we participated in 8 Major battles and would be very grateful if someone would mail this information to me as soon as reasonably possible. (Ed. Note: It has been done.) I'd like the correct name of each battle and in order. Thank you.

I'm a life time member, have been a long time but don't remember the date—Best Investment I have ever made, didn't have to remember "Did I mail in my dues?", didn't have to worry about missing a due deadline, no more

stamps and etc.; great, beside a few bucks ahead. So for my gain that you helped me to have, enclosed find a check for enough to pay 3 years dues for someone less fortunate than I, or to use in any way that will help out the 9th Infantry Division Association. I don't think I have ever missed a copy of the OCTOFOIL.. Thanks a bushel to some one. I read every word of it.

This is the information I'm asking: I'm going to put 8 stars on my headstone and their battle names in order, and I want to get this done before I join my wife of 52 years out there. Time is getting short. I remain one of the few old 9th men. Take care. Jim Stebbins

P.S.: My last GI buddy that I hear from is Michael Belmonte. He is 83. I'm very near 87, but in good health.

Hq. Co. - 47th Inf
Joseph A. DeFini

Enclosed is a check for 3 years dues. After reading the last OCTOFOIL, I checked my membership card to see if it was due. Luckily, it expired Feb. 2004. I'm 10 days late.

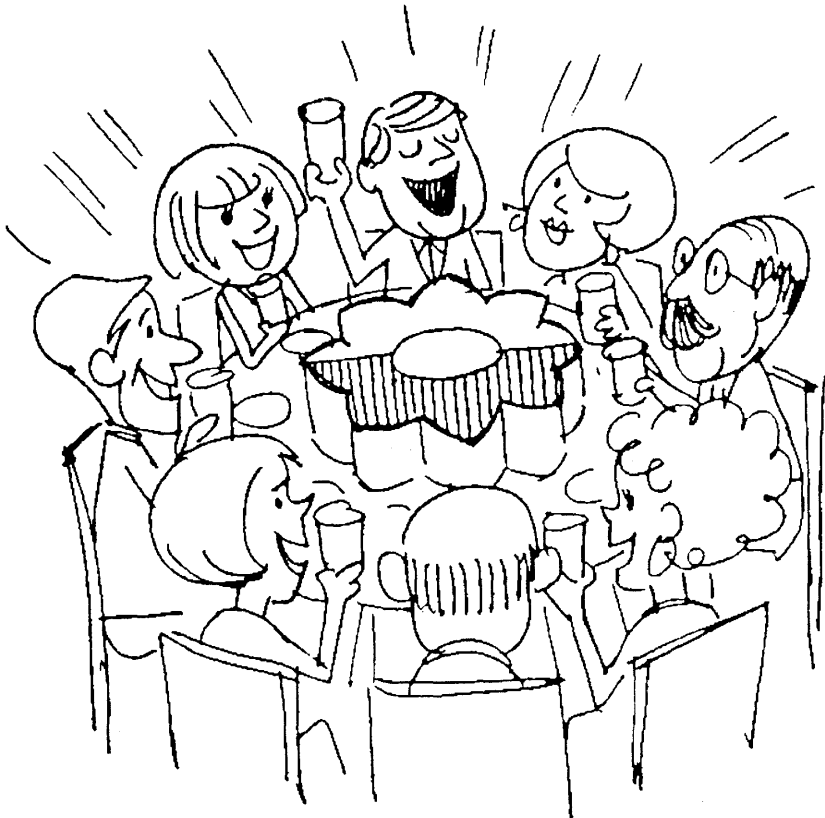
I was with the 47th RCT from the Safi landing in Morocco. I'm 87 years old and my body is breaking down. Hope that I can renew my membership in 3 years again. Sincerely,

HQ Battery - 26th Field Artillery Bn.
Emery (Hank) Berghorn

My Dad's Association dues are about due so enclosed is a check for another year. We both enjoy the newsletter and look forward to each coming edition in hopes it will contain a name familiar to him. As a side note, I am having a friend's son who lives in the DC area photocopy all of the 26th F. A. records which are in the National Archives files. The battalion kept good records as there are eight boxes of documents. This may take a while as it is being done on a time available basis. What I have so far has

proved priceless, particularly the month by month summaries which contain specific locations by date, casualties, and awards/decorations. So far I've been able to reconstruct partial battery rosters using about 200 names. If there are any 26th FA men who are seeking specific information I'd be happy to see if I have it. We would be happy to hear from any of you.

My Dad is T-4 Emery (Hank) Berghorn who was in the maintenance section, Headquarters Battery, 26th F. A. from Algeria to the end in Germany. Sincerely, Claude Berghorn



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