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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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### The Octofoil, March/April 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 2 March-April 2004

## SCHEDULED REUNION ACTIVITIES

### MONDAY

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM - ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION  
- UPPER LOBBY ALCOVE  
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
- SPORTSMEN'S ROOM  
5:30 - 6:30 PM - HAPPY HOUR - DEEP END LOUNGE  
Taped music, special drink prices and complimentary hors d'oeuvres.  
6:30 - 7:30 PM - DINNER - MAIN DINING ROOM  
8:00 - 9:00 PM - WELCOME BEER PARTY - LAUNCHING PAD  
Beer, soda, potato chips and pretzels.  
9:00 - 9:30 PM - MUSIC & DANCING - STARDUST ROOM  
9:30 PM - SHOWTIME - STARDUST ROOM

### TUESDAY

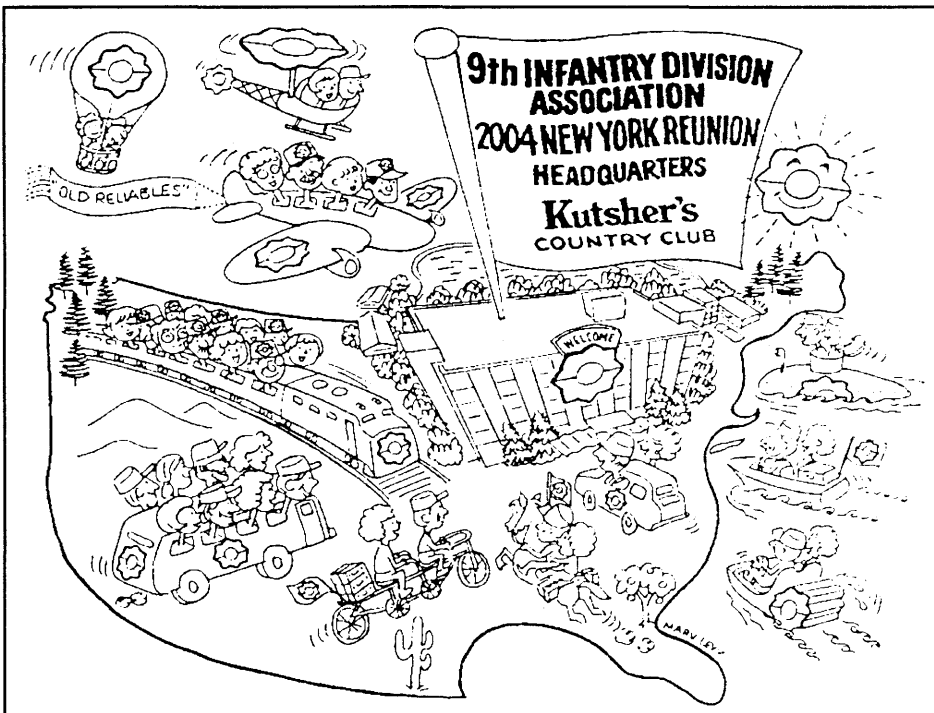
8:00 - 9:30 AM - BREAKFAST - MAIN DINING ROOM  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM - ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION  
- UPPER LOBBY ALCOVE  
10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON - MEN'S GENERAL MEETING SESSION  
- LAUNCHING PAD  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM - LADIES AUXILIARY - SPORTSMEN'S ROOM  
12:30 - 1:30 PM - LUNCH - MAIN DINING ROOM  
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
- SPORTSMEN'S ROOM  
5:30 - 6:30 PM - HAPPY HOUR - DEEP END LOUNGE  
Taped music, special drink prices and complimentary hot hors d'oeuvres.  
6:30 - 7:30 PM - CANDLELIGHT DINNER - MAIN DINING ROOM  
9:00 - 9:30 PM - MUSIC AND DANCING - STARDUST ROOM  
9:30 PM - SHOWTIME - STARDUST ROOM

### WEDNESDAY

8:00 - 9:30 AM - BREAKFAST - MAIN DINING ROOM  
10:00 - 11:30 AM - MEMORIAL SERVICE - LAUNCHING PAD  
12:30 - 1:30 PM - LUNCH - MAIN DINING ROOM  
5:30 - 6:30 PM - COCKTAIL PARTY - STARDUST ROOM  
Private Open Bar Cocktail Party with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres.  
6:30 - 8:00 PM - BANQUET DINNER - MAIN DINING ROOM  
9:00 - 9:30 PM - MUSIC AND DANCING - STARDUST ROOM  
9:30 PM - SHOWTIME - STARDUST ROOM

### THURSDAY

8:00 - 9:30 AM - BREAKFAST - MAIN DINING ROOM  
12:30 - 1:30 PM - LUNCH - MAIN DINING ROOM



## KUTSHER'S WELCOMES THE NINTH INF DIV ASSN 59<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

Kutsher's Country Club Resort Hotel  
Monticello, New York  
Monday to Thursday,  
May 10-13, 2004

Those of us who had the good sense, and the good health, to take advantage of this "good deal" are probably standing or sitting somewhere here in Kutsher's while we read about what will transpire in these few days that we share together this year. To the balance of the membership and their families who had to forego, for whatever reason, the "esprit de corps" that always prevails whenever we assemble, we offer our condolences and pray that their absence will be only temporary in scope.

There was a time when we had a cadre of regular attendees, people who never missed a reunion regardless of what shape they were in at the time. When the bugler sounded "Assembly for the Reunion", they came from the highways and by-ways across the country. No city, village or hamlet was too far away from the Reunion. They came. They came on crutches with casts on limbs; nothing was going to stop them from seeing their old buddies. The Reunions had become almost "a sacred pilgrimage" that had to be attended at any cost. Yes, more than once, the Reunion host hotels were filled to capacity and sold out. People had to find alternate accommodations at some other places near-by. And they did. They also made a promise to themselves not to wait so long "next year" before sending in the deposit. Yes, times were good, and things were good in those "good old days". But, alas, that was then, and times have changed, and things are much dif-

ferent now.

Now, we will look around the room, keeping a silent tally of who is and who isn't, and wondering if the circumstances that have kept our good friends away are of a personal medical nature or something of less importance, like a vehicle's breakdown at the wrong time. Perhaps, a grand-daughter is about to deliver a first great grandchild and Grandma "wouldn't miss that for all of the tea in China." We do hope and pray that the reason for not attending is on the happy side. We will make discreet inquiries by asking the closer pals and their wives the whys and wherefores of someone's absence.

There is no getting away from it. "Crunch Time" is upon us. Eight years ago, 1996, at the Concord Hotel in this vicinity, the "Closing down" monster reared its ugly head and we swept it under the rug by "tabling it for further study." Since then the topic has been thought about by individuals and mentioned in passing, but it has not been discussed openly and seriously. If we do not include the poor attendance in 2001 at Houston, we have attendance figures from the Concord in 1996, Louisville in 1997, Hampton in 1998, the Cape Cod in 1999, here at Kutsher's in 2000, Pigeon Forge in 2002, Lancaster in 2003, and now back to Kutsher's in 2004. Every year since 1996 has shown a decrease in attendance from the previous year like a descending flight of stairs leading down to oblivion. We cannot put it off any longer. Our future as an organization is on the line.

The time for serious talk is NOW.



December 19, 2003, Greater New York Area Chapter meeting at Franklin Square Library. Back row (L to R) Al Zenka, Marv Levy, Ed Leddy, Joe Killen, Tony Varone, Paul Renda. Front row holding Ninth Division Placque is outgoing Chapter President Ed harris, seated next to him is incoming President Joe Maiale.

### "Lest We Forget"

We shall return to Worcester  
to pay our respects to our dead  
at the ten o'clock Mass at the  
Church of the Immaculate Conception  
on Sunday, October 24, 2004

(Full details will be posted in the next issue of the Octofiol)

**THE OCTOFOIL**  
224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, NY 11580  
Editor: Joe Killen

**National Officers**  
**President**  
Elmer R. Wagner  
[REDACTED]

**Tom Hatton, 1st V.P.**  
[REDACTED]

**Jack A. Collier, 2nd V. P.**  
[REDACTED]

**Pat DeColli, 3rd V.P.**  
[REDACTED]

**Dave Heller**  
**Judge Advocate**  
[REDACTED]

**Joe Killen, Secretary & Treasurer**  
[REDACTED]

**Dan Quinn, Secretary Emeritus**  
[REDACTED]

**Board of Governors**  
**2004**  
**Gordon Anderson**  
Madison, AL  
**Pete Radichio**  
Hernando, FL  
**Tom Saunders**  
Redford, MI  
**Herb Stern**  
Houston, TX  
**Adolph Wadalavage**  
Ozone Park, NY  
**Edward V. Gill**  
Somers Point, NJ

**2005**  
**Charles LiBretto**  
Fairview, TX  
**Pat DeColli**  
Philadelphia, PA  
**Elmer R. Wagner**  
Bay City, MI  
**George H. Brown**  
Toano, VA

**2006**  
**John Maloney**  
Bennington, VT  
**Albert Lubrano**  
Brick, NJ  
**William Robey**  
Oxon Hill, MD  
**Charles Van DerPoel**  
Jacksonville, FL  
**John Clouser**  
Gladstone, MI

Published five times yearly: July, October, December, February, and 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 20th of each month of publication to guarantee publication on the 28th.  
**POST MASTER: Send address changes to 224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, NY 11580.**  
**Volume LIX Number 2**  
**March - April 2004**

**NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Make checks payable to: Ninth Infantry Division Association, Inc.  
Send to: Joe Killen, Secretary & Treasurer, 9th Infantry Division Association  
[REDACTED]

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name .....	Serial No. ....
Street Address .....	
City .....	State ..... Zip .....
I was a member of: .....	
Battery .....	Company ..... Regiment ..... Other 9 <sup>th</sup> Unit .....
I wish to sign up for the following:	
Life Membership .....	a one time fee of \$75.00
THREE - YEAR MEMBER .....	\$25.00
Regular Member per year .....	\$10.00
Sustaining Member .....	
Memorial Donation .....	
Ladies Auxiliary Member .....	\$ 3.00
Ninth Infantry Division Assn Decals .....	2 for \$1.00
Chapter to be designated:	
Philadelphia - Delaware Valley .....	Greater New York .....
Michigan .....	Illinois .....
Florida .....	New England .....
Texas and the Greater South West .....	Washington, DC and Mid-Atlantic ..

This space is usually occupied by the latest Convention / Reunion information and the Reservation or Strip Ticket Forms. Our latest meeting is upon us and the next meeting site has not been picked yet. I would like to fill this space with some serious information regarding a Chapter's business.

As a prologue, in late 1946 and early 1947, I attended the meetings of the New York Chapter in the Hotel Times Square, a dilapidated cheap place to hold our meetings. We received our charter signed by National President Donald M. Clarke, and countersigned by the National Secretary Charles O. Tingley, after July 31, 1948 as The Greater New YorkChapter. I wanted to show how long ago it was that we had chapters. This is not about the Greater New York Chapter.

THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Ed "Hoppy" Hopkins, the man that started the F -47th C.P.'s at the Reunions, had the idea of forming the New Jersey Chapter. He did not wish to draw the New Jersey residents away from the Greater New York Chapter if they were members over there. He did find a way and the fledgling New Jersey Chapter held it's first meeting on November 8, 1988 in the AMVETS building in Nutley with about 20 men present. They conformed to the National By-Laws for the rules and regulations governing Chapters. Frank Haines was elected as President, Mike Pele was the VP, Lou Slatnick - Treasurer and Hoppy was a happy Secretary. Chapter affairs ran along fairly smooth for ten years and then disaster struck. I'm not sure if Lou Slatnick died before, or after Hoppy; but they both died about the same time. Hoppy passed away on June 14, 1999.

Thereafter at every Reunion, Frank Haines would scout around looking for his New Jersey Chapter members and he very rarely made any contacts. Frank was a very concerned man who took his job seriously. The New Jersey Chapter seemed to fall apart after Hoppy's death. Frank knew that the Chapter was failing to meet the By-Laws standards, and began seeking advice regarding his dilemma. As early as 2001, he spoke to me for advise, and sorry to say, I gave him a few quick answers and pointed him in Dave Heller's direction. What advise Dave gave I do not know. Frank Haines then wrote to Dan Quinn to lay his cards on the table; while he also worked with Mike Pele. Mike Pele told me in June of 2002 that he had resigned from the Board of Governors for reasons of health. Frank Haines tried to contact Mike in October 2002 but Mike had died the week before.

Frank Haines had planed to attend the 2003 Lancaster, PA Reunion. By the time of the reunion Frank's health had declined to the point where he could not attend. On April 23, 2003 the By-Laws Committee made a recommendation "that since some questions have arisen in connection with the demise of the New Jersey Chapter that Article XIII Section 2 be read to the general meeting." No other action regarding the New Jersey Chapter was taken.

On January 10, 2003, I became National Secretary on a temporary basis until the meetings during April 2003 at Lancaster, Pa where I was voted into office by the Board of Governors. Last week, April 16, 2004 I received a call from the Deputy Attorney-General for the State of New Jersey, Treasury Department, Mr. Mark Hopkins. Yes, Hoppy's son. His message was this: "Every month my mother receives a bank statement showing the balance in the account for the New Jersey Chapter of the Ninth Infantry Division Association." "She would like to see those funds transferred into the National Association's account." I explained that we had thought that between Frank Haines and Dan Quinn, they had worked it out. His irrefutable answer was that no bank would send a statement if an account was closed, and his mother has been receiving the statements for years. Mrs. Lucy Hopkins sent me the latest statement for the numbers. I called Frank Haines and left a message. Mrs. Alice Haines returned the call. Frank has been in a Nursing Facility since January 2004 suffering from a severe case of Alzheimer's Disease. She also thought that everything had been transferred up to Dan Quinn. However, she would send me copies of all of Frank's papers that he kept of the correspondence between him and Hoppy, and between him and Dan. Next, I called Dan Quinn and asked about the transfer. He never got around to it as he was busy with his own medical problems at the time. It had just slipped thru the cracks. I called the bank and have received directions for the course to follow to transfer the funds. Even the girl at the bank who was helping Frank Haines is no longer there.

I relate this sad story as evidence of how fragile our existence has become and wonder how far removed are other Chapters who are on the verge of closing.

JPK

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.

Mr. and Mrs. Chalmus Cochran in memory of Frank S. Kowalik, Co. C - 9th Med. Bn.

his departed buddies of the 9th Signal Co., William J. Ellis, Wellesley R. Shay, Edward J. Wargo and Patrick J. McGoldrick.

Mrs. Betty Kowalik in memory of her dear husband, Frank S. Kowalik, Co. C - 9th Medical Bn.

George H. Brown in memory of Joe Vanni, Anti Tank Co. - 47th Infantry Regt.

Andrew Kopach in memory of Frank S. Kowalik, Co. C - 9th Medical Bn.

Emil P. Langer in memory of Joseph Vanni, Anti Tank Co. - 47th Inf. Regt.

Ellen Robinson in fond memory of Frank S. Kowalik, Co. C - 9th Medical Bn.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Stansell in memory of Col. Roy Smith and Cole Gronseth, both of Co. M - 60th; and also in memory of Irene Gross, wife of Dr. Martin Gross.

Suzanne T. Johnstone in memory of Frank S. Kowalik, Co. C - 9th Medical Bn.

Bill Muldoon in an anniversary remembrance of Tom McGinley, Cannon Co. - 47th Inf.

Mrs. Mary Norman in memory of her late husband, Woodrow Norman, and his buddies, Norton Pixton and Edward Dale Byrd, all of Division Headquarters Company.

Paul Schumacher in memory of Cpl. Harvey W. Matheny, Co. G - 39th Inf., KIA 14 March 1945.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ruetschi in memory of our friends, Newton Fields and John Peluso.

John Bonkowski in memory of five Michigan Chapter & PLAV buddies who have made their final Roll Call; Matt Urban (60th Inf.), Edwin Wisniewski (47th Inf.), Leonard Kowalski (47th Inf.), John Zulkiewski (47th Inf.) and Leonard DeBell (39th Inf.).

Mrs. Antoinette Mastrangelo in memory of her husband Peter Mastrangelo, Co. B - 47th Inf.

John Veraja in memory of Sgt. Alex Thomas (KIA), Randy Brown, Chester Weboerg, Joe Gallagher and 1st Sgt. Brooks, all men of the 47th Inf.

James C. Popeski in memory of his beloved wife Rose Marie Popeski.

Mrs. Betty Kowalik in memory of Peter Radichio, Co. B - 9th Medical Bn.

Jack Collier in memory of Peter Radichio, Co. B - 9th Medical Bn.

Al Zenka in memory of Bob Rucker, "Johnny" Eisenhauer, "Whitey" Whitledge, George Tracey, "Slick" Wilson, Bob Simpson, Carl Eggbrecht, Dobbins and all K Co., 60th Inf. comrades.

Ernest Hackenbrock in memory of his beloved wife Barbara.

Mrs. Virginia Cattle in memory of her husband, Major John Cattle, Battery B - 84th F. A. Bn.

Raymond Connolly in memory of

Paul Bolduc in memory of Sylester V. Pistacchio, Sr. of Co. C, 15th Engineers.

LADIES CORNER

Here's hoping the OCTOFOIL gets to you before the New York Reunion.

It is with much sadness that I am reporting the passing of Julia Witek Klimasz on March 15, 2004 at her daughter's home in Kent, Ohio. She was the wife of Anthony Klimasz who died in 1992. He received the Purple Heart Medal and the Bronze Star Medal to add to the Combat Infantryman Badge that he earned as a member of the Ninth Infantry Division during WW II. Julia served many years as a volunteer at the VA hospital in Northport, Long Island as a member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, Chapter 24. She was also the President of the PLAV for many years and a member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association's Ladies Auxiliary.

Our sympathy goes out to her daughter, Janet Klimasz Stadulis, and her son Thomas Klimasz and their children. Julia is now at rest with husband, Anthony in Arnetown, NJ.

I received a note from Marline Sanchez, who lives in Davenport, Iowa. One of her three daughters, either Elisa, Carmen, or Yolanda always traveled with her to the reunions. This year due to the girls work schedules, Marline regrets that she will not be able to attend. The girls will not allow "Mom" to travel across the country without the companionship of one of them.

Has Marline forgotten us?? Not Her!! She sent me a box with Pollyanna gifts enclosed, and a check to pay for all of their dues for 2005. Thanks for your thoughtfulness Marline. We will all miss you and the girls. After the reunion maybe some of you could drop Marline a note and tell her about the happenings. See me, Jean Geary, at the reunion for her address. Marline also mentioned that she had heard from Mary McLaughlin and Jessie Arnold, and both of them will not be coming to the NY reunion due to health reasons.

Our Ladies Auxiliary meeting will take place in The Sportsmen's Room starting at 10:00 AM. Tuesday morning. We can also use some help to sell tickets at the Ladies table. Hope we have as many donated items as last year. See me if you can help.

Stay well, a safe trip to all and I'll see you at Kutsher's ..

Jean Geary, Ladies Aux. President

[Redacted]

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

[Redacted]

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.

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

**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.*

**TAPS SOUNDED**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Jerome ( Jerry ) Stevens</b><br>Co. I - 60th Infantry Regt.                         | <b>Norton Pixton</b><br>Division Hdqrs. Co.                                     |
| <b>Barbara Hackenbrock</b><br>Wife of Ernie Hackenbrock<br>Co. A - 39th Infantry Regt. | <b>Lupe Campos</b><br>Daughter of Bonifacio Campos<br>Co. M-60th Infantry Regt. |
| <b>Willie Mizell</b><br>47th Regt. Hdqrs. Co.  | <b>Walter F. Clark</b><br>Co. M-39th Infantry Regt.                             |
| <b>Billy P. Pitt</b><br>Anti-Tank Co. - 47th Inf. Regt.                                | <b>Ralph I. Mason</b><br>9th Signal Co.   |
| <b>Julia Klimasz</b><br>Ladies Auxilliary Member                                       | <b>Louis Vivolo</b><br>9th Military Police                                      |
| <b>Col. (ret.)Roy Smith</b><br>Co. M & Co. L - 60th Inf. Regt.                         | <b>Leon Birum</b><br>A Btry - 34th F. A.  |
| <b>Michael Mederios</b><br>A Btry - 34th F. A.   | <b>Harry McCutcheon</b><br>A Btry - 34th F. A.                                  |
| <b>James Swotchak</b><br>A Btry - 34th F. A.   | <b>John A. Brasell, Sr.</b><br>C Btry - 34th F. A.                              |
| <b>Sylester V. Pistacchio</b><br>Co. C - 15th Engineers                                | <b>Albert Willingham</b><br>Hq. Btry - 34th F. A. Bn.                           |
| <b>Col. (ret) Donald Harrison</b><br>Hq. Btry. - 34th F. A. Bn.                        |   |

**Mrs. John J. Robinson**  
[Redacted]

I am writing to thank you for your steadfastness in keeping your members of the NINTH Infantry Division Association together and still sending the OCTOFOIL to your remaining members and their families.

I am enclosing a check to remember Frank S. Kowalik (Co. C - 9th Medical Bn.) who passed away February 18, 2004; and had been battling the effects of a stroke that he suffered about 11 or 12 years ago. Frank was always thinking of others and he looked my husband, John, up when he was just about to retire from the Albany Fire Department. Due to family commitments we were not able to get together with these long remembered "brothers" prior.

Since Jack died 11 years ago, the fellows he served with, together with their wives, have always included me in their group. When I was able to attend your reunions, I always asked for a room near Aldor and Vicky Cook and Betty and Frank Kowalik, and you gratuitously granted this request. At home we got together for lunch, however, the times have grown fewer lately.

I thank you and all your members for being the kind and thoughtful group you are. Sincerely, "A Navy nurse during World War II", Ellen Robinson

\*\*\*\*\*

**C Btry - 34th F. A. Bn.**  
**Mrs. John A. Brasell**  
[Redacted]

I am enclosing a copy of John Brasell's obituary. Could you please put it in the OCTOFOIL paper. John was along time member of the 9th Division Assn. His dues are paid up through 2006. We both enjoyed reading the paper and I would like to continue getting it. After a long illness, John died at home February 1, 2004 from kidney failure.

Thanks. Mrs. John Brasell

\*\*\*\*\*

**M Co. - 60th Inf.**  
**H. F. and Lila Stansell**  
[Redacted]

We were sad to learn that another good friend Colonel Roy Smith of the 9th Division passed away January 22, 2004 at home. He was in the 60th Inf. Regt. with both M and L Companies, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster and a Bronze Star Medal. he was a prisoner of war from August 1944 till the end of the war in Europe. He was on leave, went back to Germany, picked up his war bride Karin and brought her home with him. Roy loved Karin dearly and so do we.

Was sent to Korea for another hitch in the Army. He served 20 years in the Army. After the Army life he worked at South Alabama University as an engineer for 22 years before retiring.

Thank you very much, Lila C. Stansell

**John Aubrey Brasell, Sr.**

John Aubrey Brasell, Sr. was born on December 17, 1916 in Tallapoosa County, Alabama. At age 19, he joined the US Army where he served for three years. He reenlisted in Feb. 1940 at Fort Russell, Texas. As the war in Europe became imminent, he was transferred to Fort Bragg, N. C. where the 9th Infantry Division was reactivated and was then sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey prior to being sent overseas. On Dec. 17, 1942, he celebrated his 26th birthday as his troop ship went through the Straits of Gibraltar entering the Mediterranean Sea on the way to the war raging in North Africa.

Mr. Brasell, while serving with Battery C of the 34th Field Artillery Battalion, was engaged in the heavy fighting of the major battles that took place in Tunisia at Kasserine Pass, El Guettar, the Sedjenane Valley and Bizerte. After victory was secured in North Africa, he was part of the invasion of Sicily and the liberation of Italy.

Following action in those two theaters he returned to England and trained for the final invasion of Europe. He was part of the Allied invasion force on Utah Beach, Normandy in June of 1944 and was engaged in heavy fighting the duration of 1944 and 1945 in France, Belgium and Germany. He was actively involved in the Huertgen Forest, the battle of the "Bulge" and Remagen, Germany. On June 25, 1945 after 30 months in combat he was honorably discharged and shortly thereafter, began a 33 year career with Humble Oil Company, later known as Exxon.

He married Ersele Johnson of Improve on November 14, 1947. Only three short months ago, John and Ersele celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary together. In 1960, John and Ersele and their children, John, Jr. and Suzanne, moved to Houma, LA where he completed his career with Exxon and retired. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Improve into the house where Ersele was born. In 2001, the couple moved to Columbia to be closer to friends, family and medical facilities.

After the war, John served as a deacon in every community Baptist Church where they lived besides being a Sunday school teacher and a choir member. He was active in community service including work with and support of the Meals on Wheels program. Besides his wife, Ersele, John is survived by his children and their spouses, four grandchildren, two sisters and over 30 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Brasell passed away Feb. 1, 2004. funeral services were held Feb. 3rd and interment followed in the Improve Baptist church cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Another true "OLD RELIABLE" has gone**

Willie Mizell, of the 47th Regimental Headquarters Company, died Friday, April 2, 2004 of a fast-acting stomach cancer. Born on October 28, 1921, Willie was at Fort Bragg when the 9th Division was activated. As one of the members of the 47th Regiment, he served first in F Company for the landings in North Africa on through the Tunisian campaign. He was then reassigned to the Regimental Headquarters as a line-man-wireman where he earned the remainder of his eight campaign battle stars. Willie was 82 years old when he passed on and we offer our deepest sympathy to his wife, Helen, and his four children.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Co. I - 60th Infantry**  
**Orville A. Stengl**  
[Redacted]

I would like to report the death of one of our 9th Division comrades.

Jerome Stevens  
Company I, 60th Infantry

Jerry died January 18, 2004 at his home in Ft. Meyers, FL. He was 86 years old, a graduate of North Dakota State University, class of 1939. Jerry held the rank of Sgt. when he joined I Company about Feb. 13, 1945. He had been sent over from Ft. Benning, Georgia where he had served as an instructor in radio. He served in I Company, 60th to the end of the war in May.

Jerry farmed in North Dakota until he retired and moved to Florida several years ago. He leaves his wife, Jane Stevens at 10100 Cypress Cove Drive, Apt. # 214, Ft. Meyers , FL 33908-7652. Jane was active in the North Dakota American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, serving as State President one year.

I was Jerry's platoon leader, 3rd platoon, I Co., 60th and Company Ex. Officer until I was WIA for the 3rd time on 18 March 1945 and evacuated. I rejoined the Division the first week of May as the war came to a close. I was assigned to M Company, 60th for the remainder of my service in the 9th Division. I began my journey home in late October '45. I had been with M Co. in July '44 until WIA and evacuated. Rejoined M Co. early November '44, served with M Co. until 1 February '45 when I was assigned to I Company. I was recalled for the Korean War and served in Korea with Co. M, 32nd Inf., 7th Division.

I have been a lifetime paid up member of the Association since back in the 50's I believe. There is no date on my membership card. I am a retired farmer, still living on the farm that I was born on in 1921.

Sincerely, Orville A. Stengl

\*\*\*\*\*

**Co. I - 60th Infantry**  
**Philip Chesley**  
[Redacted]

Please remove my name from the OCTOFOIL mailing list. Everyone that I knew have passed away.

In case his widow did not inform you, the following old timer died Jan. 18, 2004:

**Jerome Stevens Company I, 60th Infantry Regiment**

Thanks for the great job you are doing.

Sincerely, Philip Chesley

(Ed note: Phil, pull out your 1990 Assn. directory. You still have buddies in Java, SD; New York City, NY; and Jacksonville, FL. They would like to hear from you.)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Anti - Tank Co. - 47th Inf.**  
**Billy P. Pitt**  
[Redacted]

Thank you so for the OCTOFOIL. My father enjoyed receiving it.

I am writing you to ask that he be removed from the mailing 0list as he has gone to be with our Lord.

Thank you, Donna Gainous



# CHAPTER NEWS

## GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

On March 19, 2004, at 1:00 PM, the NY Chapter met at The Franklin Square Library in Franklin Square, Long Island, NY. The meeting was attended by seven members: Anton Dietrich, Ed Harris, Joe Killen, Marv Levy, Domer Miller, Tiony Varone and Al Zenka. In the absence of President Joe Maiale and 1st VP Ed Leddy, the meeting was conducted by 2nd VP Tony Varone who opened the activities with the group Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and followed by a moment of silence for our departed comrades. Chaplain Joe Killen gave the convocation.

First order of business was the reading of the December 19 minutes by Recording Secretary Marv Levy. (There was no meeting during the winter months of Jan. & Feb.) The Financial Report was given by Secretary/Treasurer Al Zenka.

Correspondence was read by Zenka going back to December. We heard from: Al Bruchac who has a new address. Deceased member Pete Radichio's wife Margie acknowledged the chapter's condolence card and donation which she gave to the Citrus County Hospice. Olido (Bill) Starro thanked the chapter for our get well card and gave a donation to the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Joe Gravino had undergone surgery. Marty Gross wrote that he and his wife Roz have moved into her apartment across the street from where he lived.

Killen reported that Marie had been visiting Dan Quinn, who was at a rehab recovering from pneumonia. We wish Dan and all other Ninthmen a speedy recovery from their ills.

The Recording Secretary noted that he was sending a letter to the VA National Cemetery requesting accommodation for our annual Memorial Service on Saturday, May 15, at 10:30 AM. Zenka suggested that we replace the deteriorating memorial Octofoil wreath. The members agreed and Zenka will have it done.

Kutsher's Reunion chairman Joe Killen reported that he had received 147 reservations at this time and more were expected as the May 10 date got closer. After some general discussion the meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting would be on Friday April 16, when delegates to the 59th reunion would be designated.

Chapter Reminder: If you haven't paid your dues, now is the time to catch up. 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, 82-36 234th Street, Bellerose Manor, NY 11427.

Marv Levy, Co. A - 60th Inf.

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

The good news in the Michigan Chapter is that not much has happened in the past few months, except that it looks as though "Old Man Winter" has decided that he has been nasty enough for one season. The bad news in the Michigan Chapter is that not much has happened in the past few months that is worth relating. We have had a few good members who have not forgotten to pay their dues, but that's about all. We will hold our get together meeting in August for the election of the Chapter officers. It really isn't that far away and you will find the details in my newsletter as to time and place. In the meantime, I ask your support for the 2004 National Reunion at Kutsher's Resort Hotel in Monticello, NY. Details are in the OCTOFOIL. It is from Monday, May 10 to Thursday, May 13. 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

The Jan.- Feb. OCTOFOIL came earlier than usual and that was a pleasant surprise. Spring also came about the same time but the nice weather that usually arrives with it got lost somewhere along the way. However, it is looking a lot better now as we are getting closer to the Reunion.

Again it was sad to see all those names on the "Taps" page. Frank Kowalik and Gene Reedy were generous contributors to the Matt Urban Monument Fund along with so many other donors that did not live to see it.

After missing last year's trip Rose and I joined our PLAV Post #169 on the Annual Palm Sunday pilgrimage to the VA Facilities in Grand Rapids, MI. That's how we have been spending our Palm Sundays for over 30 years. Just to see those poor souls cheer up upon our arrival is most gratifying. Every patient in that VA Hospital is given a special package of useful items that are greatly appreciated. There are also comfort pillows and lap robes for those in wheelchairs. All afternoon there is Bingo and live music in the auditorium for those that can make it. Popcorn, chips and soda are also provided.

Many hours of preparation and donations go into this annual project. A very generous contribution of \$400 from The Ladies Auxiliary of the NINTH Infantry Division Association forwarded by Mrs. Ethel Thompson many years ago will never be forgotten. We'll also remember the times Matt Urban met us there to share that day together.

For the final years of his life, Leonard Kowalski (Med. 47th) was a patient in that Hospital. I always made it a point to hand him that package and spend some time with him in his room. His sight was failing but he'd recognize my voice. It would cheer him up when we talked about the good old days, a time when the whole Michigan Chapter was together yet. There were occasions the "Gang" met at Sally and his place in Mt. Clemens, MI. before they moved to Grand Rapids. They are both gone now and only memories remain.

I've always been proud of those six Michigan Chapter Buddies that joined our PLAV Post # 169:

Leonard DeBell	(A Co. 39th)	Matt Urban	(2nd Bn. 60th)
Leonard Kowalski	(Med. 47th)	Edwin Wisniewski	(Ser. Co. 47th)
Paul Pryjmak	(F Co. 47th)	John Zulkiewski	(F Co. & Hq 47th)

Ed Wisniewski served as our Post Chaplain for a number of years while I was the Sgt-at-Arms. They are all gone now except Paul Pryjmak who dropped out after moving away from the area. The ranks of all the Veterans Organizations across the country are thinning as over 1100 WW II veterans are dying each day. The dedication of the new Monument

in Washington, DC came too late for them but they will be remembered.

Since the last OCTOFOIL came we had a call from John Delmore whose deceased brother Tom served in the 34th F. A. with Gene Reedy. I gave him a Reedy Family address that he requested. I've also written to Bob & Cathy Reedy thanking them for all those signed Petitions that they returned to me towards the Commemorative Postage Stamp that Matt Urban will be eligible for next year.

An interesting note came from Gerald Lindner in Highland, IN. who misplaced the Urban address and wanted to contact Mrs. Urban. He was wounded at the same time as Matty on June 14, 1944 and they both ended up side by side at a hospital in England. Gerald's traveling days are over and sorry that he'll not be able to visit Matty's Monument in Arlington but will write to Mr. Metzler. He has been looking all over for Matty's book without success.

All the Recon Buddies must have been pleased to learn from Mike Belmonte's Illinois Chapter Newsletter that Gordon Anderson is doing well in Alabama. We'll probably be hearing from him once he catches up with his mail.

It was nice talking on the phone again with Henry and Theresa Shimkoski from Worcester, MA. They are looking forward to the Reunion at Kutsher's as we all are who have made their Reservations. Besides all your other dedicated work we are aware how much goes into putting these reunions together. We want you to know that everything is greatly appreciated what you are doing for us.

Enclosed is our humble donation to the Memorial Fund in Memory of those five Michigan Chapter and PLAV Buddies who have made their final Roll Call.

Leonard DeBell	(A Co. 39th)	Matt Urban	(2nd Bn. 60th)
Leonard Kowalski	(Med. 47th)	Edwin Wisniewski	(Ser. Co. 47th)
		John Zulkiewski	(F Co. & Hq. 47th)

Sincerely,  
John Bonkowsky

## FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

**Chapter Reunion Update :** The Reunion Committee has been meeting and negotiating with restaurant owners, boat ride managers and theatre groups in the making of final plans for the Florida Chapter Reunion to be held in Sarasota on November 17 thru 20, 2004. For those members who arrive a day ahead or very early on opening day, the Hospitality Room will be set up to enjoy the goodies, drinks and the camaraderie with those present.

On Thursday evening, arrangements have been made to have dinner at a fine local restaurant. On Friday, April 18th, two events will take place. We board Marina Jack's Luxury Cruise at noon until 1:30 PM. There will be a few hours of "Free-Time" before we go to Leverck's fine restaurant where seafood is their specialty. On Friday, November 19th, the Men's and Women's Business Meeting will be held at 10:00 AM. There will be approximately 5 hours of "Free-Time" for members to take in the different attractions in Sarasota, or go shopping, or return to the Hospitality Room where videos of past reunions and other programs will be shown. At 6:00 PM we meet as a group and proceed to have our yearly Banquet Dinner.

The Officers of the Florida Chapter agreed to have the Florida Chapter Treasury underwrite a portion of the cost to all current dues paying members of the Florida Chapter and to any member of the Women's auxiliary providing they attend the reunion for 3 or more days. Lesser discounts will go to sons, daughters, sweethearts and friends of Florida chapter members who attend the reunion for 3 days. These discounts were approved by the Chapter Officers as an incentive to increase attendance. Details of the discounts will be spelled out on the order form which will be mailed out about six weeks prior to opening day. Please mark your calendar now. Reserve the reunion dates. Urge family members to attend our reunions. Show them copies of Mary Bland Cooper's article in the Jan/Feb issue of the OCTOFOIL entitled "Sons and Daughters of the NINTH". This is a good idea which all of us who have family should help it to succeed.

### NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

**H. F. & Lila Stansell:** We were happy to learn that Lila has recovered nicely from her heart surgery. She attributes the skills of American Doctors and the many prayers from family and friends that aided her in her speedy recovery. H. F. is feeling much better ever since his wife's recovery. Their plans to attend the National Reunion and the Washington WWII Memorial were cancelled because of the distance.

**Gifford Persing:** His wife Betty suffered a stroke several years ago and is being cared for by Gifford. Because of his wife's illness, they have not been able to make the National Reunions nor the Chapter Reunions here in Florida. Gifford served with Co. C - 39th Inf. and was wounded during the fight over the Remagen Bridge. The Persing's make their home at 4411 Fairlawn Drive, Orlando, FL 32809. Phone: 407 - 351 - 5982.

**Cletus & Lula Winningham:** In a phone conversation with Lula, she stated that her husband Cletus was better but not well with his back problem. Cletus is under the care of a Neurologist to evaluate whether surgery is required. Cletus gets around by using a 4 legged cane after being restricted to a wheel chair and then the use of a walker. Lula assisted a Tree-Cutting specialist in the cutting down of 6 tall trees on their multiple acre farm. The Winningshams burn wood throughout the winter to heat their home in Allardt, TN. Hopefully, Cletus will be okay to attend our Chapter Reunion in November.

**LeRoy & Erika Miller:** The Millers have been plagued with medical problems for the past 4 years. LeRoy had a hip replacement and back surgery which required many months of rehabilitation in a nursing home. Fortunately, he can now get around with the aid of a walker. Erika has had a fairly good recovery from her stroke. She is able to walk again and has use of her arms. She does have a little problem lifting her left arm above her shoulders however that seems to be improving with the continuation of her therapy. The Millers live at [REDACTED] personal note from members to them will be appreciated.

### MEMBERSHIP ROSTER UPDATE

Because of the constant changes that happen on a monthly basis, we urge you to update your present copy by making the changes as printed in the OCTOFOIL. By updating your roster, it will save postage money and a lot of extra work. Our Chapter Secretary, Ed Gray, has prepared the latest one effective April 10, 2004. Anyone wishing a copy of the Membership Roster is asked to send a self addressed stamped envelope to Emil J. De Donato, [REDACTED]

Emil J. De Donato

## MAIL CALL

**Co. F - 60th Inf.**  
**George Arnold**

Better late than never. I meant to send you a deposit for the Reunion before this but in February I had a stroke and spent part of February and March in the VA hospital. Actually, I have waited a month till now to find out if I could plan on attending the reunion come May. I have made almost a full recovery and I feel I could travel with my wife at my side. My left side has been weakened along with my speech which accounts for the poor handwriting. All told I consider myself very lucky that I'm back on my feet and with the help of a cane I can get around. Thanks of course to the wonderful staff at the VA. I couldn't thank them enough.

When I was discharged, all the several Doctors and Nurses, plus the group in the "Rehab" said was, "Mister Arnold, you earned the very best care when you served your country during the war." The government is living up to its promise to take care of us Vets. The first call that I made when I got home was to John Miller in Texas to thank him for advising me to get into the VA system. That was when I attended the Reunion in Houston, TX several years ago. (2001) I attended the meeting where John got up and gave a speech urging everyone to enroll in the VA Health system. The day after I returned home from the Reunion I went to the VA here in Syracuse and did the above. I got an ID card and when my son took me to the VA emergency ward the ID card paid off.

From that time and until I got discharged I received the very best care. The several cat scans, the X-rays, the whole bit. I know for a fact that if I went into any hospital my wife would have to sign forms for health insurance and so forth. And my stay would be limited to satisfy the insurance company, with no rehab like I received at the VA.

Speaking of John Miller who I can honestly write had a lot to do with me coming home from the war. When he became the Mess Sgt. he asked me to be a cook. That was long before the war started. When war broke out, I along with John and the whole division had only a month to go before getting out, having served 11 months. But, as you well know, on December 7th, 1941 a notice was posted on every bulletin board in every barrack that we were in for the dura-

tion of the war. Being a cook I knew I had a 50/50 chance of making it home. Not a 100% because the 9th Division made 3 landings in North Africa, Sicily, and Normandy. John and I along with the kitchen crew went ashore via landing craft and fought alongside with F company. A couple of cooks did not make it. John Miller told me more than once that he wanted to remain the Mess Sgt through the war. But when the CO offered him the 1st Sgt offer he couldn't turn it down. So with John's recommendation to the CO that I was his choice, I became Mess Sgt. which bore a lot of responsibilities.

Aad to write that when I did talk to John recently he mentioned that he too had health problems and would not be attending the reunion this coming May. I was looking forward to seeing him there. In closing with no more setbacks my wife and I will be at the coming reunion in May.

Best Regards,  
George Arnold.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Hq. Co. 1st Bn. - 39th Inf.**  
**G. Frank Minor**

I don't remember if I have paid my dues or not. seems that I have but to be sure I am paying for 3 more years. Don't want to miss an OCTOFOIL. I have lost contact with all my old buddies that I knew. Don't know if any are living or not. I have many wonderful memories of how close we were when we were together.

Trust you have a joyful reunion. Wish that I could come.

G. Frank Minor.

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**CO. E - 60th Inf.**  
**James C. Popeski, Sr.**

Thank you for having my wife, Rose Marie's name mentioned in the TAPS column, and also in the "Mail Call" section. I appreciate it very much.

Enclosed please find my check to be used for the memorial of my beloved wife, Rose Marie Popeski.

Thank you for all the kindness you have shown my wife and I and may God bless you and your family and keep all of you in His care.

Sincerely,  
Jim Popeski, Sr.

**Co. G - 47th Inf.**  
**Mrs. Sandra Dick**

Thank you for talking to us about St. Lo. My wife Sandra has always wanted to know more about the battle that took her father's life and she would like to talk with anyone that might have known her Dad, or was in the same area that he was. He was from Danville, Virginia.



**Pfc. Albert L. Keen, 3353 3154 Company G, 47th Infantry Regt. Killed in Action July 20, 1944 St. Lo, France**

Thank you for any help you can give us.

Sincerely,  
Charles E. and Sandra Dick

\*\*\*\*\*

**Co. H - 47th Inf.**  
**Robert Alberter**

26 Fountain of Youth Blvd.  
St. Augustine, FL 32080

If anyone wants information about the celebration of the 60th anniversary on the Battle of Normandy please give me a call at (904) 471-0907. I received a call from the former mayor Greville-Hague. He asked me if I could get this information to the division newspaper. They would like to know if any people from the Ninth will come for the celebrations in the villages that they helped to liberate. Greville-Hague was liberated on June 30, 1944. These celebrations will be held on the 60th anniversary of the day that they were liberated. The French government wants to have medals struck, and will be inscribing the name of the G.I.s who participated in their Liberation.

Bob Alberter

**Co. C - 39th Inf.**  
**Paul W. J. Schumacher**

Greetings to you and your wife from your friends in Tennessee. Looking forward to seeing you in New York in a few weeks.

I have a special request to make, and you can put the information below in the OCTOFOIL.

Nancy Morrell is the daughter of Corporal Harvey W. Matheny, of Co. G, 39th Inf. Regt., who was KIA on 14 March 1945 and now rests in the Henri Chapelle ABMC Cemetery, which is near Verviers, Belgium. Nancy is seeking information from anyone who was acquainted with her father. Please write to her at the address given below:

Mrs. Nancy Morrell

Sincerely,  
Paul W J Schumacher

\*\*\*\*\*

**CO. C - 47th Inf.**  
**Jack A. Collier**

I believe that I have been in shock since Marge called and told Nadine that Pete had died. It was an honor for me to work with Peter Radichio at the Pigeon Forge 2002 Reunion. Little did I know when in Houston I told Pete I would help at the reunion in any way that I could. His Treasurer Richard Baudouy died suddenly so he asked me to take on the job. It sure was a pleasure to work with him and his lovely wife. For anyone that missed my letter and report of the reunion I mailed a check to the ASSN. in the amount of \$6,451.69. This included a \$1,000 advance and \$250.00 deposit. Pete and his helpers did a great job. Enclosed are two checks, one for 4-5&6 dues and the other in remembrance of Pete. We first got together in Atlanta in 1974. What a time we had. Looking forward to NY.

The PFC from MO,  
Jack A. Collier

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## MAIL CALL

(Continued from Page 6)

Co. B - 47th Inf.**Albert Feder**

Enclosed is my check for the next 3 years. I look forward to each copy of the OCTOFOIL and find it very heartwarming. Through the paper I have renewed my friendship with Larry Vinci with whom I endured the "Bulge" and other hardships.

I don't know how many of my old buddies are still around as I was one of the youngest. I joined in Normandy and went through 5 campaigns although wounded twice. I fondly remember Bob Hamilton, Ben Rienzi, Richard Yenser and all of the guys of B Company, 47th Infantry.

If my old buddy, Barney Fisher is still around I would like to hear from him. Currently my wife and I are active members of an Adult Community in New Jersey.

Keep up the good work,  
Albert Feder

\*\*\*\*\*

Co. K - 60th Inf.**James F. Hart, Jr.**

I am a bit late, but I have been away. Have been a member since day one and want to stick with this great group.

Congratulations for taking on what must be a tough job. My best wishes to you for a long and happy career as our Secretary. All my best to you,

Jim Hart

\*\*\*\*\*

Co. F - 47th Inf.**Peter L. Peri**

Enclosed is my check for a three year dues renewal. sorry that I am late. I wasn't aware that my dues were due.

I am happy that the Assn. is still in existence. ( I had heard that it was going to disband last year.)

Although I have not been active in the Assn., my old comrades are always in my thoughts and prayers.

My very best regards,  
Pete Peri

\*\*\*\*\*

3rd Bn. Hq. Co. - 39th Inf.**Robert E. Stumpf**

Please find my 9th Division Association membership application and dues enclosed. My father, Robert H. Stumpf, was the 3rd Battalion - 39th Inf. CO from Sept. '43 until Feb. '45. My grandfather, Donald A. Stroh was 9th Div. Asst. CG from Aug. '42 until July '44

I have embarked on a book project in which the 9th Division features prominently. I would appreciate being contacted by anyone who remembers anything about my father or grandfather, especially personal anecdotes or memories about specific engagements in which they participated. Please feel free to contact me by letter, phone or e-mail, at your convenience.

You have the enduring thanks of a grateful nation.

God bless you all.  
Bob

\*\*\*\*\*

Co. K - 60th Inf.**Gail Eisenhower**

Thank you very much for letting me ask if anyone had known my father, 2nd Lieut. John C. Eisenhower. I have received three replies. It was wonderful to talk with these gentlemen, and I appreciate them contacting me.

It is so nice of the OCTOFOIL for making this happen.

Sincerely,

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Co. B - 47th Inf.**Mrs. A. Mastrangelo**

I'm sending a donation in memory of my husband Peter Mastrangelo, he was in Co. B - 47th Inf. in all of the campaigns.

I want to thank you for keeping me on the mailing list all these years. I enjoyed your paper very much, but of late, sadly, not many of his buddies are active. I wish you and all our brave soldiers the very best health and happiness. Thank you and God bless you.

Co. C - 47th Inf.**John Veraja**

As a life member, please accept enclosed check as a memorial donation in memory of;

1st Sgt. Brooks (the Best !!)  
Sgt. Alex Thomas-KIA Normandy  
Sgt. Randy Brown - ??  
Pvt. Chester Weborg  
Pvt. Joe Gallagher-"B" Co. 47<sup>th</sup>

Trained with the above at TICH-BORNE ESTATE, ENGLAND, Village of ARLESFORD, and served in Normandy -HEROS ALL !!

My platoon C.O. was a Lt. Plantz - a good man. Rejoined C Co. in Siegfried line complex with Sgt. Brown.

Sgt. Alex Thomas, a Canadian, got his citizenship in Normandy; after having been through North Africa and Sicily!

I met you, Dan, one time at the 50th Reunion in the Catskills, my one and only attendance.! Hope to see you at Kutsher's.

Stay well, buddy,  
John Veraja

\*\*\*\*\*

9th Signal Company**Raymond M. Connolly, Jr.**

Some time ago, I requested that my name, in your records and the OCTOFOIL should be corrected, as follows:

RAYMOND M. CONNOLLY JR.  
(no E)

There is a valid reason for this request to wit: My son is RAYMOND M. CONNOLLY III and my Grandson is RAYMOND M. CONNOLLY IV

And since I am sending info Re: "Sons and Daughters of the Ninth", I deem this important.

Keep up the Great ?? work and give our love to Marie and Dan. He has a lifetime Pass to the "Hole in the Wall Gang." 9X9S

Regards,  
Ray

(Ed Note: Prease congraturate interrigent US Postar Worker who can deriver OCTOFOIR with missperrred name. Maybe correction of name resurt in rost efficiency. Velly solly if so. However, wourd make recipient on par with rest of nation. Rate derivery.)

KWITCHURBELLYAKIN,

B Battery - 34th F. A. Bn.**Leslie T. Dail**

I don't know what my standing as far as Assn dues are concerned, but here's another 3 years. Want to keep up with what's happening.

I have 3 deaths to report that took place during the last year:

1.- Capt. Leon (Buck) Birum was a great soldier and one of the nicest men you'd ever meet.

2.- Retired Col. Donald Harrison, who fired the only atomic artillery that the U.S. ever fired.

3.- Albert Willingham, who was Westmoreland's driver while Westmoreland was the Battalion Commander.

I plan on seeing Jack Lannon and his wife Ruth in Myrtle Beach, SC on the 5th of March. They come down from Rhode Island to thaw out each March.

Leslie Dail

\*\*\*\*\*

Co. - A - 15th Engineers**Carroll "Doc" DeVoid**

Hi, according to my dues card I'm due again. Don't want to miss the OCTOFOIL so here goes for another three years. It may be wishful thinking but so be it. It was good to hear from a few old friends at Christmas. I won't be going to the Reunion in May. Too much driving, and sadly too few left. Hope it is another good one.

"Doc" DeVoid

\*\*\*\*\*

34th Field Artillery**George Reinhagen**

I was a member of the 9th Inf. Div. Assn. for many years but in a year of many illnesses, etc. my membership lapsed. I would like to pick it up again. Enclosed is a check for a 3 year enrollment. It will be great to read the OCTOFOIL again.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*\*\*



## MAIL CALL

(Continued from Page 7)

**Battery B - 84th F. A. Bn.**  
**Mrs. John W. Cattle, Sr.**  
 [REDACTED]

Enclosed is a check for the Memorial Fund in honor and memory of my husband, Major John Cattle who died in 1999.

From the days at Fort Bragg and the three years overseas the B Battery was a family! How John loved "His Men." For any who knew John and would like to communicate, my address is above.

With warm regards to all,  
 Mrs. John Cattle

\*\*\*\*\*

**Co. M - 60th Inf.**  
**Boni Campos**  
 [REDACTED]

I'm late on my dues, but I was waiting for the *OCTOFOIL*, and I'm glad. I received two in a row, so I am paying my dues for three years. I think I'll last at least three more years. I'll be 80 next October. I was 17 when I enlisted.

Yes, I did get to buy the "Eight Stars to Victory", being that I was in on 6 of those victories. I didn't send any Christmas cards last year. I didn't feel like doing anything cause my youngest daughter, Lupe, passed away from cancer two weeks before Christmas. She was only 42 years old. So I hope you people had a better Christmas than I did.

I didn't get but two Christmas cards, one from you, thanks, and one from Al Lubrano

Cheers, uno amigo,  
 Boni Campos

**Co. E - 47th Inf.**  
**Norman C. Johnson**  
 [REDACTED]

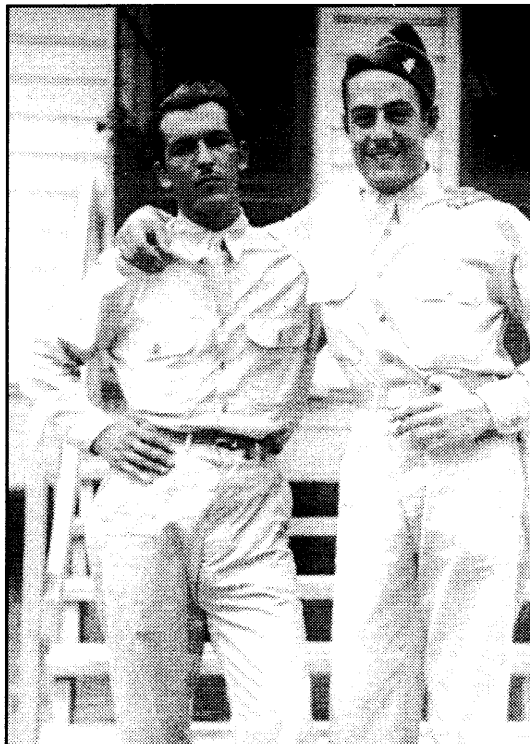
Thank you for sending the information regarding the *OCTOFOIL* I had requested. My father used to belong to the Association but he had let his dues run out some time ago. We recently found an older issue and I decided to write to see if it is still available.

My Dad served in the United States Army 9th Division, 47th Infantry - Company E. He was taken as a Prisoner of War on March 28, 1943 during the battle for North Africa. He was held by the Germans for a two year time period, being released in April 1945. I am enclosing some of the articles he has saved over the years to verify this information. It would be nice if someone he might have served with would recognize his name and possibly mail him a letter. At times he enjoys telling me some of the events that occurred while he was a POW. He recently showed me a leather collar he has saved over the years that the Germans made the Prisoners of War wear. I really wish he would have tried to write a book to cover this period of history.

My Father is 86 years old and is in good health. His wife, Helen and his two daughters, Karin Walter and Barbara Helper, all reside in Kane, Pennsylvania. Enclosed please find a fee to cover the three years dues for the *OCTOFOIL* to be mailed directly to my Father. Also I would like to purchase the decals for him.

Thank You,  
 Karin A. Walter.

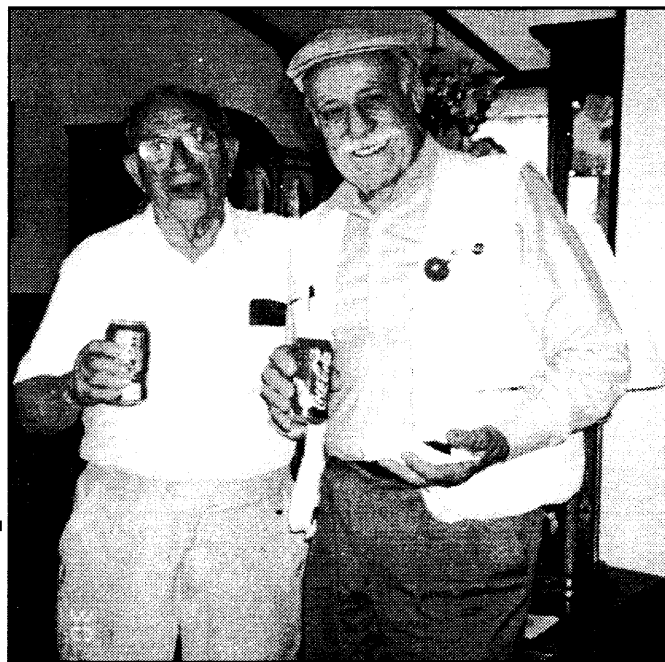
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July 1941 Ft. Bragg, NC  
 Ralph Marmone and  
 Anthony Varone at their  
 barrack Co C. - 39th inf.  
 Reg. 9th Inf. Div.



July 1941 Ft. Bragg, NC  
 Wm. J. Driscoll, Jr.,  
 Robert Denny and  
 Anthony Varone. Ralph  
 Marmone in doorway in  
 background.  
 Co C. - 39th inf. Reg.  
 9th Inf. Div.



June 30, 2003  
 Tony DeRobertis  
 (L-47th) visited  
 by Tony Varone  
 (C-39th) in  
 Stroudsburg, PA.

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