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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, May/June/July 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 3

May-June-July, 2004

Worcester - 2004 "Lest We Forget"

We who call ourselves the "Friends of Father Connors"
shall meet again in praying for our dead on
Sunday, October 24, 2004
at the ten o'clock Mass at the
Church of the Immaculate Conception,
Grove Street, Worcester, Mass.

We will also remember in our prayers the men that wore the Octofoil,
returned home with us and have now gone to their eternal reward.
A service will follow the Mass at our memorial on the church grounds
to honor the dead (4,581) that are listed on the Microfilm
set into the wall of our memorial.

We will sponsor a luncheon at the Holiday Inn,
500 Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA 01605 at 12:30 P.M.
As our good friend Tom Boyle had always stated,
"We will have you on your way home by 3:00 P.M."
We invite all members to join us as we pray for our dead.

We have reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn, Worcester.
Reservations must be made by yourselves by Sept. 21st, 2004.
The phone number is 1-508-852-4000.
Reservations for the luncheon must be made payable to
"Ninth Infantry Division Association"
at a per person cost of \$20.00 and mailed to
Herbert E. Olsen
P.O. Box 845
Marstons Mills, MA 02648
Should you have problems, please call 1-508-420-3320
The CP room will open Saturday afternoon, October 23rd

Tom Boyle - Fran Maher - Ron Murphy
Herb Olsen

TREASURER'S REPORT to the 59th GENERAL MEETING OUR GENERAL FUND

The CORRECTED GENERAL FUND BALANCE as of April 17, 2003 \$10,014.07

DISBURSEMENTS		INCOME	
Secretary Salary	\$ 0.00	Dues from members	\$ 6,152.00
Clerical Expenses	360.00	Donations	4,374.00
Secretary Expenses	756.00	Sales of Decals	117.50
Utilities	816.00	Interest from	
Postage	333.00	CGM Mutual Funds	235.95
Supplies & Misc.	265.00	Transferred Funds	34.00
Editor's Expense	0.00		
Treasurer's Expense	0.00	Total Income for the Year	\$ 10,913.45
Membership Cards	584.00	April 17, 2003 Balance	+ 10,014.07
Memorial Wreath	150.00		
Octofoil printing (6 issues)	7,310.60		\$ 20,927.52
Octofoil Mailing cost	3,219.40	Less Disbursements	- 14,523.15
Trophy House	59.90	BALANCE AVAILABLE	\$ 6,404.37
Accountant	0.00	for May 4, 2004	
Banking Charges	119.25		
Loan to '04 Reunion Deposit	500.00		
Check Refused by Bank	50.00		
Total Disbursements	\$ 14,523.15		

GENERAL INFORMATION ON OUR INVESTED FUNDS

These Funds are under the control of the Board of Governors as of May 9, 2002.
The Association holds 719 shares in one account, and 298 shares in another account for
a total of 1017 shares of CGM Mutual Fund. The price per share as of the close of busi-
ness on 3 May, 2004 was \$22.09. Therefore \$22.09 X 1017 shares = \$ 22,465.53 in
Invested Funds.
The symbol for this stock is LOMMX if anyone wishes to access a stock market web
page.
Phone info can be had by dialing 1-800-343-5678 and listening for FUND #35.
Both methods are accessible 24 hours everyday.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph P. Killen, Treasurer.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

A Recap of the 59th REUNION 2004 By the Numbers

Let me take a moment to thank the Lord for allowing me to see this reunion through to a fairly successful conclusion. I was able to deliver to the members and their guests exactly what was bargained for, three squares every day, a nice soft place to rest their heads at night, and a different show every evening. All for a price that was reasonably easy on their pocketbooks. Nobody, including the Association, suffered any extraordinary financial surprises. The Association could have realized more money if we had raised the prices for each attendee. That's not my style. My conscience would have been in turmoil if we forced the attendees, who were only four percent of our mailing list, to pay extra so that the other 96% could benefit from the profits. No, that would be a sin called GREED. We are not greedy.

I thank the 220 members and guests who demonstrated their faith and trust in my handling of their reunion and my commitment to them. What had started as only a slight trickle of deposit checks during the Fall of 2003 became a gusher of checks in the Spring of 2004. Unfortunately for us all, twenty-three people had to cancel or did not show as scheduled. We missed them, everyone. All received a refund check as promised. One couple was surprised to receive a refund check for their overpayment when it was discovered that they had overpaid their final bill.

DISBURSEMENTS		INCOME	
Final Hotel Bill	\$ 50,480.60	Amt. On Loan From Assn.	\$500.00
Memorial Wreath	149.50	(for Advance Deposit)	
Reunion Programs	265.00	Interest paid on Account	71.32
Refunds Paid	1,515.00	Collected from 220 people	54,252.00
Bank Charges	19.00		
Repay Assn. Loan	500.00	TOTAL Collected	\$54,823.32
59th's Gift to Assn.	\$2,008.22	7/21/04 (member paid)	114.00
Total Disbursements	\$54,937.32	GROSS Income	\$54,937.32

Our host, Kutsher's Country Club, presented the original bill of \$51,072.60 for their services to our 194 people, but adjustments brought the total down to \$50,480.60. As a group being under the Association's tax-exempt status umbrella, we managed to keep \$5,931.47 in our pockets, that otherwise would have gone to the tax collectors. Do the math. Each person would have had to kick-in more than \$30.00 extra. Three people who had to cancel instructed us to use their deposit refund as a donation for the good of the Octofoil. I thank them.

I do not feel as though I am betraying a trust when I reveal the type of "Good People" that we have in the Association. My co-chairman and his wife, Joe and Sadie Maiale, had everything to do with the presentation of the Reunion Tee-shirts to each member in attendance at the reunion. Right from the "Git-go" it was their idea and their gift to the Association. They sold the excess Tee-shirts for a nominal price at our registration table and then, turned those collected funds over as an additional gift to the Association. All nice and quietly, without looking for recognition and praise. Thank you, Lord for putting such wonderful people in our camp and on our team.

I hope that all of our members and their guests have fond memories of our 59th reunion this year, and I pray that all of us remain reasonably healthy to attend our future reunions.

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to be of service to our Association.

Sincerely,
Joe Killen,
Reunion Co-chairman.



May 12, 2004 59th Reunion at Kutsher's, Monticello, NY. Co. G.39th Inf. Left to Right: Lawrence Kaufman, Anton Dietrich and Bill Canary

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

National Officers

President
William G. Robey
[redacted]

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

Pat DeColli, 2nd V. P.
[redacted]

Everett Tapp, 3rd V. P.
[redacted]

Dave Heller,
Judge Advocate
[redacted]

Joe Killen, Secretary & Treasurer
[redacted]

Dan Quinn, Secretary Emeritus
[redacted]

Board of Governors

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 G. Robey
Oxon Hill, MD
Charles Van Der Poel
Jacksonville, FL
John Clouser
Gladstone, MI

2007
Anthony Varone
Kings Park, NY
Jack A. Collier
St. Louis, MO
Albert Perna
Philadelphia, PA
Everett Tapp
Grass Lake, MI
Martin Gross, DDS
Coconut Creek, FL
Jack R. Blann
Houston, TX

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.
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Volume LIX Number 3 May - June - July 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
224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, N. Y. 11580

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name	Serial No.
Street Address	
City	State Zip
I was a member of:	
Battery	Company Regiment Other 9 th 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	

REUNION 2005
SEPTEMBER 23, 24, and 25, 2005
WASHINGTON, DC

At the last reunion, the Board of governors established a committee to evaluate locations for the 60th Reunion in 2005. The members of this committee are W. G. Robey, Pres., John Clouser, Al Perna and Marty Gross. At the time of the establishment of this committee, Joe Killen was named a member. However, a couple of weeks later Joe asked to be taken off the committee, so Marty Gross was appointed to serve in his place.

Al Perna was given the task of evaluating Atlantic City, NJ, and since I live in the Washington DC area I took on the job of evaluation of the DC area. After Al had done considerable investigation into the Atlantic City possibilities, he found that there was no cooperation from the hotels, and they did not seem interested in hosting our Reunion. After his report, the committee voted to drop all consideration of Atlantic City, and to concentrate on the Washington DC area.

After investigating several hotels in the area, the best offer over all came from the Crystal City Marriott Hotel, located in Arlington, VA., just across the Potomac River from downtown Washington. The hotel is above a very large underground shopping mall with many stores and restaurants. There is underground and above ground access to the Metro subway if anyone is interested in going into the city on their own. Reagan National Airport is about 10 minutes from the hotel, which has van service on a regular basis, including a lift van for disabled guests arriving by air. The hotel is totally handicap accessible. The hotel also has underground parking for guests, and we are trying to negotiate special rates for our reunion members. Details about room costs, beer party, banquet, and other items will be found in the next issue of the Octofoil.

Our plans are to operate about the same way Joe Killen did at Kutsher's, and if the hotel will recognize our tax exempt status, we will set things up as Joe did in NY. More on this in the next newsletter. The reunion is being held on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday schedule in order to get lower rates in the hotel, as the hotel is heavily occupied on week days by commercial patrons. These dates do not conflict with the Hebrew High Holy days, which will take place in October in 2005.

The tentative schedule is to have our welcoming Beer Party on Friday night. We are trying to arrange for a Saturday morning wreath laying ceremony at the new World War II Memorial, complete with a group photo to be taken at this ceremony. This ceremony will be a little different from our usual Memorial service in that we will have to conform to the National Park Service rules and regulations governing this type of ceremony. This ceremony will probably take place about 9:00 A.M. and we will have charter buses to take everyone to the ceremony and return them to the hotel. So far, the NPS have agreed to our visit and have offered assistance with our ceremony. More details in the next Octofoil.

The General meeting of the Association will then have to be held on Saturday, early in the afternoon, with the new Board of Governors meeting following immediately thereafter. The Banquet will be on Sunday evening and we are trying to provide something for Saturday night also. As I keep repeating, more details in the next Octofoil. In the meantime, the 2005 Reunion is now set for the Washington DC area, and with the new World War II Memorial, we should have a large turnout for this one.

This reunion will be a lot of hard work, and I may need to call on other members to pitch in and help. If you are interested in helping in any way, contact me either at my home address: W. G. Robey, 1005 Elkhart St., Oxon Hill, MD 20745. Or I can be reached on my toll free phone number 1-866-229-2377, and you will be asked for a pin number, put in 3322 and the call will go thru toll free.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you next year at Washington DC.

Bill Robey, 15th Engineers
President

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. Rosamae N. Mooty in memory of her husband, W. H. "Bill" Mooty of Co. E, 47th Inf.

Pete Rice, Jr. in memory of Major John Cattle, S-3 and Bob Rucker, both of the 84th F. A.

Emil Langer in memory of Dorothy Jensen, widow of Charles F. Jensen of Co. A, 47th Inf.

Herb Stern in memory of a dear friend who cared much for his fellow comrades, Dick Granbery of the Ninth Recon Troop.

Pete Rice in memory of the good scout from Houston, Dick Granbery of the 9th Recon Troop.

Capt. Jason Morris, USAF in memory of Major John H. Doxsee of Co. G, 60th Inf.

Joe and Sadie Maiale in memory of the men who didn't come home from Co. I- 47th Inf.

Albert Farese in memory of Waldo Kraft, Tony San Giacomo, John and Mary DeSepio.

Thomas J. Marron in memory of his departed buddies of Company E, 60th Inf.

Jane Apostolides in memory of Frank S. Kowalik, of Co. C, Ninth Medical Battalion

Charles McLhinney in memory of John

Trevelise, Bill Moody, and Bob Colflesh, all of Co. E, 47th Inf.

Carl Winter in memory of the good friends lost from Cannon Co., 60th Inf., 2nd Plt. group

Mrs. Harold W. Smith in memory of her husband, LTC Harold W. Smith of the 60th Infantry Regimental Headquarters Company.

Stanley Kazdoy in memory of his buddy, Leonard M. DeBell of Co. A, 39th Inf.

Ray Brugger in memory of the too many familiar names I have seen in the Taps Sounded column.

Charles McLhinney in memory of Edward "Hoppy" Hopkins of Co. F, 47th Inf.

George J. Connolly, Jr. in memory of the following members of Battery A, 34th F.A. Bn.

James A. Swotchak Leon "Buck" Birum
Eugene Reedy Donald L. Harrison

Leo F. Fatlan in memory of Lyle Kitchen and Ken Crieghton, both of Co. M, 47th Inf.

Joe Killacky in honor of Evan "Red" Thompson and all the deceased of Co. K, 47th Inf.

Arthur G. Lindquist in memory of the men of the 2nd Bn. Hq. Co. 39th Inf.

Fellow Gentlemen and Our Ladies;

Regarding the 59th reunion which was held at Kutsher's in Monticello, NY, I believe the participation was excellent. In spite of the fact that we are getting older and some of us are experiencing difficulty navigating, we were there to meet and exchange conversations with our buddies.

All of this was made possible by the dedicated efforts and hard work of the coordinator, Joe Killen, and of course his wife Emma, who was a great help to him. It was a monumental job, consisting of reserving the rooms, collecting the money, arranging the meals, scheduling the committee meetings, and the entertainment. They both deserve a roaring round of applause.

Everyone that was there I'm sure had an enjoyable time, and those who could not make it, I would like you to know you were missed.

Again, many thanks to all who participated and made it a great success.

Joe Maiale, Co- Chairman
and Sadie, too.

A plea from Marie Quinn:

Joe - Maybe you can put a note in the Octofoil saying - Dan Quinn no longer handles the paper.

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

LADIES CORNER

It was good to see so many familiar faces at the 59th Reunion, and a few new ones also. Glad to see you again. Missed some of our comrades who couldn't make the reunion due to health or other reasons

After a little confusion of which room the Ladies meeting was to be held in, we finally settled in and had 43 ladies present. Three VA hospitals were donated to and also a donation was given for "The Octofoil". The officers will remain the same for 2004-2005. As Judy Goldsmith said in the reading of her minutes from last year, "It got as quiet as a mouse at election time". Well, this time at the election, you could have heard a pin drop on the carpet. You ladies need to speak up and take a part in the organization. It's not that hard.

I wish to thank Judy - VP and Secretary, and Lola Booth, our Treasurer for all their work during their terms in office. Also thanks to Ellen Schumacher, who was serving her first year as our Chaplin. Great job Ladies, I appreciate your help. and thanks for accepting the offices for next term.

Because a luncheon was not feasible for the meeting, we played a game called "Now you have it - Now you don't". The Ladies had a good time and six Ladies finally got to keep the gifts. Due to the lack of time I passed out papers for the women to take along and work on called "Unscramble the Pies" Here are the Answers - #1 to #28 = Apple, Apricot, Banana Cream, Blueberry, Boysenberry, Blackberry, Bavarian Cream, Cherry, Chocolate, Coconut Cream, Coconut Custard, Cherry Cheese, Cranberry, Grape, Lemon Meringue, Lemon Chiffon, Mince Meat, Mocha Cream, Pecan, Pineapple, Peach, Pumpkin, Raspberry, Rhubarb, Pear, Strawberry, Strawberry Chiffon, Shoofly. Did you get them all right without any help?? Let me know next year.

As you all know Blondina Sager fell and broke her hip at the Reunion. She was still in the hospital when we left for home, so how about sending a card to her wishing her well. I know she and Harry would appreciate it. The Sager's live at

I know I thanked the Ladies and Gentlemen who donated gifts for the raffle table, but without their donations to raffle off, we Ladies of the 9th could not donate to the VA hospitals and help our own men. It seems a lot of the VA hospitals are really in need of help. One of the Ladies told us that there was a dire need for men's clothing at the hospitals. She said it was on TV. So, give your VA a call and see where you could donate items if you have any. I'm sure they would be greatly appreciated. There are so many new men needing help each year, either for medication or hospital care. We appreciate your contributions, keep it up. We had 22 gifts this year. Also, Mary (Cooper) of the Sons and Daughters organization said they would help us at the table selling tickets next year. That would be great. Give us old folks a break. Thanks Mary for "Running" the gifts around the night of the banquet. We should have given you a skate board. Maybe you can get some others from your group to help you out at next year's reunion. Get them involved.

Thank you, Ruth B. Lees, of Seabring, FL, for your donation of two lap robes even though you could not attend. Also, a thank you to Marlene Sanchez, of Davenport, IA, for her gifts sent to me for the Polyanna. Thanks for remembering us

I know Henry and I look forward to these reunions to be able to see friends we have made over the past years and for the men to talk over war experiences with each other. They always seem to find some new connection with a member of the 9th. I often wish I had a tape recorder to tape these talks so it could be passed along to the younger generations. I hope these memories will never be forgotten, so it is up to you young "Sons and Daughters" members to keep your Dad and his buddies remembered. The "Old Reliables" will never die if you can pass on their experiences and memories to the next generation. Each reunion there are less and less of us to attend.

Remember to write to me if you have any news I could put in the Octofoil. or send it directly to Joe Killen and he will see it is put in the paper.

Good health and a safe happy summer to all.

Jean Geary, Ladies Auxiliary President

Sons and Daughters of the NINTH

We, the SONS and DAUGHTERS of the NINTH, would like to thank the Woman's Auxiliary for the donation of \$75 to help defray the cost of our postage, etc. We had another great year at the Reunion in New York. We are looking forward to the next reunion and are continuing to grow in numbers. We plan on getting Tee-shirts made for the next reunion. Contact me at ztamkcooper@sbcglobal.net to be added to our mailing list.

Mary Cooper

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



April 24, 2003 Sons & Daughters at Lancaster, PA Reunion.

TAPS SOUNDED

*The muffled drum's sad roll has beat the soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet that brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping-ground their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead.*

TAPS SOUNDED

Salvatore J. Sapienza
Battery A - 84th F.A. Bn.

Carlos D. "Shorty" Ward
Co. C - 39th Inf.

Richard F. Wolf
Anti-Tank Co. - 60th Inf.

Frank J. Markland
Co. M - 39th Inf.

**Mrs. Dorothy Jensen, widow of
Charles F. Jensen**
Co. A - 47th Inf.

Harry V. Ellis, Jr.
9th Inf. Div.

Dr. Russel M. Hummel
Co. D - 9th Med. Bn.

Ralph Witzkin
Service Co. - 47th Inf.

John H. Doxsee
Co. G - 60th Inf.

James E. Posten
9th Div. Hq. Co.

Harold W. Smith
Regt. Hq. Co. - 60th Inf.

Dale E. Carrigan
Co. D - 60th Inf.

**Mrs. Helen Forte, wife of
Anthony Forte**
Co. K - 39th Inf.

Evan "Red" Thompson
Co. K - 47th Inf.

Richard "Dick" Granbery
9th Recon Troop

A Man of Destiny Type

A most tolerable and pleasant person, 84-year-old Evan "Red" Thompson of 1925 Stonehedge Land, South Bend, hardly appears to be the man of destiny type.

He has a rare distinction, honored for his remarkable achievements on the basketball court and battlefields of World War II in Europe. With his head held high, he simple stated with quiet demeanor, "You've got to take life in stride, especially under stress."

It wasn't until his induction into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in March 1987 that Red's heroics were spotlighted again after nearly half a century lapse.

A Star of Hoosier Hysteria

In his sophomore year at Frankfort High School, he played regular forward for Everett Case, one of Indiana's coaching legends, on the 1929 championship team that beat Indianapolis Tech 29-23. For three consecutive years he starred in the state finals.

When Red decided not to attend college, despite trips to Purdue, Indiana and Kentucky, he chose instead to play AAU teams, one of which was Bendix that led to his employment and residency in South Bend.

Reds World War II record was extraordinary. His honorable discharge from the Army of the United States reads: "This is to certify that Evan B. Thompson, Private First Class, Company K, 47th Infantry, AP09. This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service to this country. Given at Mayo General Hospital, Galesburg, Ill., 26th of Oct. 1945.

"This is to certify that the President of the United States of America authorized the Bronze Star Medal to Private First Class Evan B. Thompson, United States Army, for meritorious achievement in ground combat against an armed enemy during World War II in the European Northern France, Normandy, Central Europe and the Rhineland.

Thompson claims no mythic power of extra-sensory perception, only a deeply ingrained faith in the power of prayer. "In every fox hole on the battlefields of Europe I prayed to God for survival and a strength of spirit. It was prayer that helped me cope with despondency when my buddies alongside were killed."

A devout member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in South Bend, Thompson continues to be conscientious and devoted in his Christian duties. Perhaps Alice Joyce Davidson's poem, A Christmas Prayer, would be a fitting epilogue to his memoirs.

Dear God,
Let my vision widen
To the glory of your ways.
Fill my lips with gospel
And joyous words of praise.
Use my mind and fill it full
Of righteous goals and deeds.
Give my hands some noble work
To help fill others' needs.
Take my soul, take all of me
And make me worthy of
Your priceless gift of Christmas
Your treasured gift of love.

**Minutes of the 201st Board of Governors Meeting**

The 201st meeting of the Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was called to order by President Elmer R. Wagner at 4:10 PM on Monday, May 10th in the Executive Meeting Room of Kutsher's Country Club and Hotel Resort, Monticello, New York during our 59th Annual Reunion.

The meeting was well attended as 33 members declared their interest in the proceedings. They were Adolph Wadalavage, John Maloney, John Clouser, George H. Brown, Charles LiBretto, Pat De Colli, and William G. Robey, Jr., all members of the Board. They were assisted by Alternate Board Members: Martin M. Gross acting for the absent Charles Van der Poel, Jack R. Blann for the absent Herb Stern, and John X. Bonkowski for the absent Tom Saunders. The National Officers in attendance were 1st Vice President Thomas W. Hatton, 2nd Vice President Jack A. Collier and Secretary and Treasurer Joseph P. Killen. Everett Tapp, Bob De Sandy, Ernie Mika, Joe Maiale, Herb Olsen, Al Ferrante, Bob Mandle, Paul Schumacher, Anton Dietrich, William Doty, Emil Langer, Al Zenka, Tony Varone, Henry Shimkowski, Charles McLhinney, Walter Victor, Al Perna, Lawrence Kaufman and Len Tomassone completed the assembled group.

President Wagner requested the body to stand and follow him as he led the group in reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance" to our American flag. We remained standing for a moment of silent tribute and remembrance of our 4581 comrades who were lost on the field of battle, and of all our members who have since gone on to join them.

President Wagner then rapped the gavel to begin the regular order of business. The group sat, and Secretary Joe Killen read the minutes of the previous meeting which took place in Lancaster, PA. There were no questions or corrections to be made. A motion to accept was made by Martin M. Gross, and seconded by William G. Robey. After a voice vote was taken, the motion to accept was adopted. President Wagner then called for a reading of the Treasurer's report. Treasurer Joseph P. Killen had previously passed out copies of the report to the members so that they could follow his reading of the report. A copy of the report is posted in this issue. There were no questions raised after the full explanation of the report and Pat DeColli then made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Charles LiBretto seconded the motion and after a positive voice vote the motion to accept was adopted.

Martin M. Gross stated that the Florida chapter Treasurer, Emil De Donato, has given notice to the chapter members that he will no longer collect dues to be forwarded to the National Secretary. This is a violation of the Association's regulations governing the chapters as declared in the Constitution and By-Laws. Gross also said that he did not realize that the Florida chapter members were required to pay dues to both the chapter and the National. Our Judge Advocate, Dave Heller, was not present so a ruling on the matter could not be made. George H. Brown reminded the body that at the 2001 general meeting the ground rules for Chapter Secretaries to deduct a portion of the membership dues had been established. Chapters are allowed to deduct a maximum of \$2.00 from an annual payment, and \$5.00 from a \$25.00 three-year payment.

President Wagner expressed concern that the Secretary was not able to maintain the pace set by the speakers while he was hand-writing the notes of the proceedings. He suggested that the Secretary obtain at Association expense a device to record the meeting if it would be beneficial for the body. Lawrence Kaufman rose to enumerate the short-comings of an inexpensive device as opposed to the more elaborate device required to record our meetings. John Clouser interrupted to foster a motion to defer the subject to the general meeting the following morning. Secretary Joe Killen agreed with Lawrence Kaufman that we can get along with out an expensive tape recorder. The motion was withdrawn.

The talk turned to reunions and Al Perna presented a "Financial Statement" as a recap for the 2003 Lancaster, PA reunion. The "Bottom Line" of the statement showed a deficit of \$45.82, which Perna said that he would absorb as he did not want to burden the Association with another debt. For the coming 2005 reunion, William Robey was asked to investigate the Washington, DC area for possible locations, and Al Perna offered to do like wise in the Atlantic City, New Jersey area. Joe Killen reported that the on-going reunion figures were not available as the members and their guests were still in the process of arriving. However, from first indications, this reunion will be successful.

President Elmer R. Wagner then assigned Board Members to chair the committees for the following morning's general meeting. John Clouser was named to chair the Nominating Committee, Martin M. Gross to chair the Finance Committee, George H. Brown to chair the By-Laws Committee, Charles LiBretto to chair the Newspaper Committee, and Adolph Wadalavage to chair the Miscellaneous Committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by William Robey and seconded by John Clouser. With all in favor, President Wagner brought the proceedings to a close at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph P. Killen, Secretary

MINUTES of the 59th REUNION GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting took place during the 59th reunion at Kutsher's Country Club and Hotel Resort in Monticello, New York on Tuesday, May 11, 2004. At 10:12 AM President Elmer R. Wagner addressed the members assembled in the Launching Pad meeting room with a call to order. The assembled body stood and made their Pledge of Allegiance to our United States Flag and remained standing for a moment of silent tribute to our departed members.

Secretary Joe Killen read the minutes of the 58th meeting held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and upon a motion made by Emil Langer and seconded by Joe Maiale it was voted to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as read and have the Secretary place a copy of the same on file in the Association's records. President Wagner then instructed the assembly to break into the various committee groups for a recess of thirty minutes to conduct committee business. After the agreed interval had passed, he called the general meeting back to order and asked for the report of the Nominating Committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

John Clouser, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, named the following members who had served with him on this important committee: Tom Hatton of the Michigan Chapter, Al Zenka of the Greater New York Chapter, Jack R. Blann of the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter, Charles Rochelle, North Carolina, and Leo Hope, Ohio, both members at large. Clouser thank them for their service on behalf of the Association. The committee recommended that the out-going Board members be replaced by these members:-

- Jack A. Collier, Illinois Chapter to replace Gordon A. Anderson, now of Alabama.
- Tony Varone, Greater NY Chapter to replace Adolph Wadalavage.
- Everett Tapp, Michigan Chapter to replace Tom Saunders,
- Jack R. Blann, Texas and the Greater Southwest Chapter to replace Herb Stern,
- Albert Perna, Philadelphia- Delaware Valley Chapter to replace Edward V. Gill.
- Martin M. Gross, Florida Chapter to replace H. F. Stansell, who had filled in for the late Peter A. Radichio.

President Wagner called for any other nominations from the floor. After a period, Bob DeSandy made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by William Canary and so moved. Anton Dietrich made a motion to accept the candidates proposed by the committee and asked the Secretary to cast one ballot as a unanimous vote for their election. Paul Schumacher seconded this motion and it was so voted and acted upon.

BY - LAWS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the By-Laws Committee George H. Brown thanked the members who served on this committee. They were William Nelson of Ohio, Richard Irwin of Michigan and John F. Lannon of Rhode Island. The Committee recommended that the By-Laws remain as they are at this time as no proposals for amendments to the By-Laws were submitted for their consideration. President Wagner thanked Brown and his committee for their report and upon a motion made by Emil Langer and seconded by Tony DeRobertis it was voted to accept the By-Laws committee recommendations.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Martin M. Gross Chairman of the Finance Committee named the following members who served with him on this committee: Everett Tapp and Bob DeSandy, both of the Michigan Chapter, and William Doty of Pennsylvania, and Curtis J. Witt of Maryland, both without a chapter affiliation. Treasurer Joe Killen also was present at the committee's discussions to answer any inquiries that could arise pertaining to the budgeted items. The committee submitted a budget that is based upon the good nature of our members, asking them to make timely payments of their dues when due, and donations that are as generous as their circumstances will allow. The committee have eliminated the Secretary's salary, the Treasurer's expense, and the Editor's expense items from this budget in an effort to reduce our outlay by \$1500.00. Seven other items were reduced drastically for another reduction of \$3000.00. The committee has pared \$4500.00 from the expenditures and the outlook is still a projected \$2883.00 shortage to balance the budget. All costs and incomes are educated estimates only, based upon past experiences.

The 2004-2005 Budget Amounts as submitted by the Finance Committee

Income		Expenses	
Member's Dues	\$5,000.00	Sec. Expense	\$ 800.00
Donations	4,000.00	Clerical Help	400.00
Sales of decals	100.00	Utilities	800.00
CGM Dividends	250.00	Postage	333.00
TOTAL Income	\$9,350.00	Supplies & Misc.	350.00
		Wreath	150.00
Shortage required to		Octofoil costs	\$ 9,000.00
Balance Budget	\$2,883.00	Accountant	300.00
		Banking Charges	100.00
		TOTAL Expenses	\$12,233.00

President Wagner thanked the committee for their report and upon a motion made by Ed Sarnocinski and seconded by Emil Langer it was voted to accept the report and the recommendations of the committee.

NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

When called upon for his report Chairman of the Newspaper Committee Charles LiBretto named the following members who had served with him on this committee: John Bonkowski - Michigan Chapter, Marvin Levy - Greater New York Chapter, Herb Olsen - New England Chapter, and Jim Dawson - Michigan Chapter. The Committee recommends that we keep printing five issues a year of the Octofoil to maintain our necessary communication link with our members. They urge all members to send letters to the editor reporting on their activities and news of their buddies for the membership to share. The committee would like to see a more timely delivery of the Octofoil, but could not arrive at a workable solution to that problem. President Wagner thanked Charles LiBretto and his committee for their report. Upon a motion made by John Lannon and seconded by Curtis Witt it was voted to accept the Newspaper Committee report.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE

Adolph Wadalavage Chairman of the Miscellaneous Committee named Anton Dietrich, Lawrence Kaufman, Willie Goldsmith and Don Sedestrom as members of his committee. The committee recommends that all reunion sites should be investigated to make certain that they have facilities for our disabled members. They believe that a committee should be formed to determine if the membership desires the Association to continue as we are or do the members wish to set a date for the final reunion and disband the Association as we know it at that reunion. President Wagner thanked Wadalavage and his committee for their efforts with these serious problems. Upon a motion made by Len Tommasone and seconded by Tom Hatton it was voted to accept the report and recommendations of this committee.

Treasurer Joe Killen gave a detailed report of the financial condition of the Association. President Wagner thanked Killen for his report and on a motion made by Bob DeSandy and seconded by Tony Varone it was voted to accept the Treasurer's report.

Chairman of the 58th Reunion Al Perna made the final financial report of his reunion declaring that he had borrowed no money from the Association and even though the reunion went into the "Red", he would not burden the Association with the loss.

Chairman of the 59th Reunion Joe Killen reported that all aspects of this reunion are on schedule with only one exception, that being that Mrs. Blondina Sager had fallen this morning and was rushed to a local hospital for treatment. Further news was unavailable before this meeting. (See the "Ladies Corner" to send a Get-Well card.)

President Wagner announced that plans for the 2005 reunion will have to be decided at the Board of Governors meeting scheduled for later on this afternoon when the new Board convenes.

There was no further business to come before the body and on a motion to close made by Tony Varone and seconded by Tom Hatton the meeting adjourned at 11:54 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Killen, Secretary

MINUTES of the 202nd BOARD of GOVERNORS MEETING

The 202nd meeting of the Board of Governors took place on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 at the Executive meeting room in Kutsher's Country Club and Hotel Resort, Monticello, New York. President Elmer R. Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:15 P.M. with 26 members present. The members of the Board of Governors were: Jack A. Collier, Albert Perna, Jack R. Blann, Everett M. Tapp, Elmer R. Wagner, John Maloney, John Clouser, Pat DeColli, Charles LiBretto, George H. Brown, William G. Robey, Anthony Varone, and Dr. Martin M. Gross. Other members attending were 1st Vice-President Tom Hatton, Secretary and Treasurer Joseph P. Killen, John X. Bonkowski, Henry Shimkowski, Marvin Levy, Herb Olsen, Bob DeSandy, Joe Maiale, Paul Schumacher, Adolph Wadalavage, Paul Giarraputo, Anton Dietrich, and Al Zenka.

President Wagner asked the assembly to stand for our Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and to remain standing for a moment of silent prayer for our departed comrades of World War II and for those who have since joined those who did not return from the battlefields.

Upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Pat DeColli it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous day's Board meeting. Upon a motion made by Everett Tapp and seconded by William Robey it was voted to dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's report.

ELECTIONS

President Wagner called for the Election of Officers to serve for the coming year. Elected were:

President	William G. Robey	1st Vice President	Tom Hatton
Secretary	Joe Killen	2nd Vice President	Pat DeColli
Treasurer	Joe Killen	3rd Vice President	Everett Tapp
Judge Advocate	Dave Heller		

President Elmer R. Wagner thanked the members for their cooperation during the past year and wished the newly elected President William G. Robey continued success for the coming year as he turned over the power of authority.

REUNION 2005

After our lunch break between meetings, William G. Robey found time to contact four possible reunion sites in the Washington, DC vicinity. He volunteered to investigate each more thoroughly in the coming weeks and report back to the Board. Meanwhile, Al Perna also volunteered to seek out reunion sites in the Atlantic City, New Jersey area and coordinate his findings with the Board.

A motion made by John Clouser and seconded by Pat DeColli for a Committee of four to be formed consisting of the President, the Secretary, member Al Perna, and himself, John Clouser to consider and approve any 2005 reunion proposals brought to the Committee by Robey or Perna before passing such proposals on for the final approval of the Board of Governors. The members of the Board of Governors shall be notified by mail which sites are offered for their majority approval. Voting shall be by return United States Postal System. The Secretary has since disqualified himself from that committee as he had been reminded by John Clouser that the Secretary was not a member of the Board of Governors. Martin M. Gross has volunteered to fill the vacancy.

There being no further business to come before this body, a motion to adjourn was made by John Clouser and seconded by Elmer Wagner. The meeting was closed at 5:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph P. Killen, Secretary

CHAPTER NEWS

TEXAS & THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

The semi-annual meeting of the Chapter was again held at Summer's Mill, Salado, Texas. The central location and easy access on the Interstates has proven to be popular for those members who can still travel.

Chapter President John W. Miller convened the meeting on April 23, and Willard Norris gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

For purposes of comparison, John read from THE ARMY TIMES the current rates of pay for enlisted men and officers. The Fort Bragg group (\$21.00/ month) compared to today's Private at over \$1,000.00 per month. True, Privates of our time did later receive \$50.00 per month. Right now, many of our troops are really earning their pay.

Herb Stern, the Chapter representative, will not be able to attend the National May 10 - 13, so John Miller will write to Joe Killen requesting the substitution of Jack Blann.

Two of our Chapter members are writing their military histories, with the assistance of Barry Basden, who publishes military histories. Barry is publishing a book of short military stories and would be glad to receive any from the 9th's membership. for this, there is no charge and he can be reached at: Camroc Press, [REDACTED]

Those in attendance were: M/M Jack Blann, M/M John W. Miller, M/M Willard Norris, M/M Dick Granbery, M/M Herb Stern, Charles Scheffel, Gordon Schneider, and Ken Meyer's widow Delores, and his daughter Nancy.

Each of the ladies brought "goodies" for our happy hour the evening of April 22. Fortunately our catered dinner was served only several blocks away so driving on a private road we did not prove to be hazardous to the general population.

Writing this on May 7, 2004, I can report that John Miller is recovering from surgery, even though he suffered one heart attack during the surgery, followed by a second one several days later. He is alert and anxious to get out of that bed and will do so as soon as they can get his heart synchronized

Gordon A. Schneider

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

The NY Chapter held its last meeting before the summer hiatus on Friday, June 18, 2004 at the Franklin Square Library on Lincoln Road in Franklin Square, Long Island. President Joe Maiale provided a six-foot long "hero" luncheon on the occasion of NY Chapter's Past Presidents Day and summer break. The library staff was invited to join us for lunch in appreciation of their year-long accommodation.

At 12 noon, Pres. Maiale opened the meeting in the community room noting it would be abbreviated to give more time for the luncheon. We first held our regular opening ceremonies with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and silent respect for our 4,581 comrades lost in WWII and those who since have passed on. Pres. Maiale read a directive from the American Legion suggesting veteran organizations place the POW/MIA flag on one chair at all meetings. Our members approved and Maiale draped the black and white flag on the back of an empty chair placed up front near the officer's table. Reading of the Minutes of the past meeting and Financial report was suspended. Reunion Chairman Joe Killen reported the National Association made about \$2000 profit from the 59th Annual Reunion at Kutsher's in May.

Treasurer/Secretary Al Zenka was asked by some members about a possible Friar Tuck mini-reunion this September. Zenka is working on it. A notice to members was mailed July 17, scheduling Friar Tuck get-together for Labor day, September 6 to 10, 2004. Notify Zenka by July 30 if interested. . . address below.

The closing business was the honoring of Chapter Past Presidents attending, which included: Ed Harris, Joe Killen, Marv Levy, Tony Varone and Adolph Wadalavage. Also attending were Ninthmen Bill Muldoon and John Tschupp. Our invited lovely ladies were: Barbara Levy, Sadie Maiale, Emma Killen, Viola Varone, and Genevieve Zenka.

At the conclusion of the half hour meeting the library staff joined us for lunch. For the last three weeks the library had a special exhibit dedicated to the June 6, D-Day Normandy Invasion. The History Channel sponsored a national library contest to recognize the best historical display. Joe Maiale loaned a framed display of his medals and yours truly displayed my combat sketchbook of the 9th Inf. Div. Cherbourg campaign. Other artifacts and memorabilia were loaned by local library patrons. Most of the staff's parents were in WWII and were interested in stories of the war experienced by our 9th veterans.

The staff returned to library duties about 2 PM and we continued to satiate ourselves on heros till 3 PM, after which we policed the area and left, wishing fellow members and wives a happy and healthy summer. Our next luncheon meeting will be on Friday, September 17, 2004 at 12 noon.

At the time of this writing I have been informed that Ninthman Frank Markland

passed away in May. The chapter sends heartfelt condolences to Frank's family. On sick call: Marie informs me that Dan Quinn, who requires portable oxygen and a visiting nurse at home, is undergoing tests at the hospital. Others who are ill include Gerry Levinson, Aaron Lubin, Al Lipton, Herminio Suarez, Joe Rzesniowiecki and Tony Varone. We wish better days to our sick comrades. Please notify us of other ill chapter members.

Chapter reminder: Al Zenka informs me that many members are in arrears with their dues. Maybe, because we're getting older we're more Forgetful. Perfect Solution!! Remember to pay your dues—and Exercise your hand — by Writing your check today. It's \$10 for one year, \$25 for three 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 [REDACTED] Marv Levy, Co A 60th [REDACTED]

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Florida Chapter Reunion Update: Preparations have been made, contracts have been approved and signed for the Chapter Sarasota Reunion on November 17 to 20. By the time you read this notice, you should have received the Information Sheet outlining the day by day activities and the Order Form stating the costs. All Florida Chapter members who are up-to-date in their dues are eligible to discounts as noted on the two sheets which were mailed on July 10, 2004. Although the Reunion is a few months away, please send in the Order form and check with the correct amount as soon as possible as it will make the job of the Reunion Committee a bit easier. No credit cards please. You have nothing to lose as we will honor cancellations up until November 16, 2004. Family members, friends and members of the National Organization are welcome to join us. Contact Emil De Donato, 3650 S W Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL., Phone 352/489-4070 for particulars.

CLARIFICATION IN DUES PAYING METHOD : A directive received from George H. Brown, a member of the BY-LAWS COMMITTEE at the 2004 National Reunion clearly states that duly recognized local Chapters are authorized to collect National dues and are further authorized to deduct certain commissions. Effective immediately, all Florida Chapter members have the option of paying their National dues through the Florida Chapter Treasurer, Emil De Donato, 3650 S W Mosswood St., Dunnellon FL 34431 or pay National dues directly to the NINTH Infantry Division Association, 224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, NY 11580. Attn: Joseph P. Killen, Secretary.

NINTH Infantry Division Association dues are: \$10.00 for one year, \$25.00 for three years, and \$75.00 for Life Membership. Florida dues are: \$5.00 one year, \$13.00 three years, \$50.00 for Life Membership. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Anthony Forte: It is with deep regret that we learned the passing of his beloved wife , Helen in April 2003. our heartfelt sympathies go out to Tony and his family.

Cletus Winningham: He was released from the Allardt, TN hospital, where they treated him for low blood count, a prostate problem and a pinched nerve in his legs, on June 25th and is recovering at home. All according to his wife Lula, who is hoping Cletus and she will be okay to attend the Sarasota Reunion.

Wally Richardson: The licensed auctioneer, who auctioned surplus items at our past reunions, has had some health problems during the past year. However, if he can get someone to share the long drive from Franklin, Indiana, in November, he will make every effort to attend the Sarasota Reunion.

LeRoy Miller: He and his wife Erika have been seriously ill for the past three years, but are at home and making slight improvements. LeRoy stated that he is now taking long walks and his left hand is starting to show signs of life.

Leo Bank: Leo's wife Jeanette was rushed to the hospital in May. Efforts to contact Leo via the listed membership roster phone number have failed. Our prayers are for Jeanette's recovery. Please send any change of address or phone number to Emil De Donato.

William Mac Donald: In 2002, William Mac Donald, and his motorized wheelchair, rode the Greyhound Bus for 5 hours from his home in Seminole, FL to attend the St. Augustine Reunion. He attended all of the functions, enjoyed the activities and was a delight to the members. When he learned that the 2004 Chapter Reunion was being held in Sarasota, he exclaimed, "Why, that's only 45 minutes away from my home and I'll be there." We look forward to having him and his optimistic attitude with us this year.

ROSTER UPDATE

Hague O'Quinn: Please change his phone number to read 352/332-3793 on your copy of the Membership Roster. O'Quinn lives in Gainesville, FL and served with the 47th Medics.

Emil J. De Donato

MAIL CALL

RECON REUNION RECOLLECTIONS
John Bonkowski

The 59th Reunion came and went as quick as a wink. Rose and I left home a day early and there were no long lines at the border. After spending the night in Binghamton, NY, we headed for Kutsher's Monday morning. To our surprise we arrived there at the same time as Chairman Joe Killen and Emma.

It was great to see those who came to share a few days together as we have done through the years. Then again, we missed those who couldn't be there such as Danny and Marie Quinn. They had to cancel out due to his recent bout with Pneumonia.

Kutsher's looked about the same as it did four years ago. The only difference that I have noticed, it took a bit more effort to go from one place to another in that vast structure as I struggled with my "four pronger". And yet, I felt very fortunate to be there. With so many friends around, there was no other place I'd rather be.

We appreciated the early Octofoil that was handed to us at the Registration Desk. All the "Guys" were treated to a souvenir Tee-shirt of this 59th Reunion. You can say that we were all "winners" after ending up with a "tie" the last time.

The seating arrangement for all our meals worked perfectly just like before, always the same seat with the same group at every table. Rose and I had the pleasure of being together with our great friends, Henry and Theresa Shimkoski from Worcester, MA. Also James Dawson with his son, Charles and daughter, Ruth all from Michigan. Let us not forget the waitresses and service which couldn't be better.

Everyone expressed their concern for Harry and Blondina Sager after she fell in a hallway and suffered a hip fracture. She underwent surgery at a local hospital and while recovering insisted that Harry spend as much time as possible with his friends at the Reunion. Their journey back home to Fostoria, Ohio was delayed about a week. We were pleased to hear that she was recovering nicely although it will take time.

Congratulations to Bill Robey from Maryland who was elected our new National President. Our best wishes also to all the Officers and Board Members who will serve our Association to the best of their ability. Tom Hatton was re-elected the First Vice-President and Everett Tapp will represent the Michigan Chapter on the Board of Governors.

At the Wednesday morning Memorial Service, five young Service-men formed a very impressive Color Guard. A member from each Chapter was escorted to the wreath during the traditional solemn Ceremony. The Program was brief and somehow the 4581 Comrades that we left behind were not mentioned.

The Ladies auxiliary held another successful drawing during the Banquet in their effort to fund their worthy projects. Everyone's support was greatly appreciated.

Our deep gratitude to everyone who signed the Petition towards Matt Urban's Commemorative Postage Stamp. Just before the Reunion we received a call from Anthony J. Bajdek, Associate Dean at Northeastern University in Boston, MA, to whom we return all our signed Petitions. he informed us that the Petition Drive is doing very well and that there is no dead-line for collecting the signatures. Our effort will go on until Matty is honored with that well deserved stamp. So we thank you again as I turned in four more sheets of Petitions that were signed during the Reunion.

There were various activities going on every day and we always ended up in the Stardust Room for the 9:30 Showtime. It seems that they always save the best for last. On the final night a very talented male vocalist's renditions out-performed some of the well known entertainers.

Once again I was the only one there from the Recon. I'm hoping that nothing serious kept any of them away as was the case with "Cappy" Capobianco. He fell at home and spent a couple of days in the hospital. Last we heard he was at home recovering from some bruises. From what I gathered, not too many Ol' Reliabilities would make it to Washington, DC for the Dedication of the WWII Monument. However, Pat DeColli was planning on being there for all of the events, so we were represented.

The next Get-Together will be the Annual Memorial Week-End in Worcester, MA. Herb Olsen will have all the details in the Octofoil. I really want to be there on October 24, but I'll have to do better than I'm doing now. In the meantime I'll be hoping and praying to make it one more time.

In closing, I want to express our appreciation to both Co-Chairmen, Joe Killen and Joe Maiale for a great effort in putting this Reunion together and all the memories that we took with us.

Co. F - 47th Inf.
Rodger E. Alsgaard

Though it's been a long time since my last letter to the Octofoil I have been alive and not complaining too much. I do want to tell all the troops in the Michigan Chapter that I think of them often, and to all those of the Illinois Chapter who joined with us at Angola, IN. God bless you all.

Thanks to all who met at Kutsher's for signing the card that Everett Tapp mailed to me. It was most welcome. It was nice being remembered by so many. I'm holding up. The doctors at the VA treat me pretty well. Have had the cataract removed from my left eye and am now waiting for my new glasses.

If the doctors can keep me together I'll make the trip in 2005, where ever it is. When you read this I will have celebrated my 89th Birthday on July 22nd.

Rodger E. Alsgaard,
President Michigan Chapter
P.S.: Joe, you can correct any and all errors. (Editor's note: Thanks, Rog. You should have made an error or two for me to correct. There were none this time)

Co. M - 39th Inf.
Frank Markland

Frank Markland has passed away May 27, 2004. He always looked forward to reading every page of the Octofoil.

Frank was very proud to be a Ranger with the Ninth Infantry Division in WWII. He participated in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Normandy.

Yours truly,
Irene Markland (wife)

Hdq. Btry. - 84th F. A.
Pete Rice, Jr.

Here is a small memorial to Dick Granbery of the Ninth Recon Troop.

Dick and I enjoyed comparing experiences, - never meeting during the war, but in and near the same cities and areas.

As Hdq. Btry. CO after the war ended, I was "responsible" for Wasserburg. Our 84th Battalion CD was responsible for a large area with A, B & C batteries in outlying areas and Hdq. and Service batteries inside of Wasserburg.

Dick laughed and said he probably enjoyed the enlisted men's club more than I enjoyed the "stuffy" officers club barely in Wasserburg. Division Hdq. was in the old Luftwaffe air base between Munchen and "Vasserbourg".

I think Dick was right! We will miss Dick Granbery - - - a good scout in the Recon and a good scout in Houston.

In the Bonds,
Pete Rice

Division Headquarters Co.
Herbert U. Stern

My good friend and comrade Dick Granbery of Houston, TX passed away peacefully on the evening of July 20th. Dick had been in the 9th Recon during World War II. He has been a very active member of the Texas & Greater Southwest Chapter.

Living in Houston, my wife and I had many opportunities to see Dick and his wife Alice and become good friends. It was particularly gratifying to see Dick visit 9th Division vets who were disabled or unable to be actively involved in the Chapter activities. Dick made it a point of spending time with members of the Division who enjoyed his company and thoughtfulness. All of us in the Texas Chapter will miss Dick.

I enclose a check to the Memorial Fund in memory of a dear friend who cared much for his fellow comrades.

Regards,
Herb Stern

Co. E - 60th Inf.
Gustav J. Heise

My brother Arnold and I went into the service in '43. I was drafted, my brother who had just graduated from high school decided to go with me as we were close and because they would have drafted him shortly. We went to Camp Custer, Michigan, then to Camp Wheeler, Georgia, near Macon. We finished our Basic Training and were sent to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia. We boarded the "Empress of Japan", a liner captured in a English port at the start of the war and now used as a troopship. We sailed for North Africa where we were assigned to the Ninth Division, where we were assigned to the 60th Regiment, the same Battalion, the same Company, the same platoon, the same squad, and then the B.A.R. team in that squad.

From Africa we went to Sicily, then to England, where we trained for the assault on the mainland of Europe. My brother and I stayed together except for the times when he was wounded and I was hospitalized for trench foot and Diaphragmatic Pleurisy. We were traumatically separated when he died in my arms just beyond the little town of Schmidt, Germany.

I just became aware of the Octofoil paper a short time back. Like they say, "Better late than never".

Thank you,
Gustav J. Heise

Co. E - 60th Inf.
Thomas J. Marron

I think that I have missed paying for my past year or so. this check I hope should cover me for 3 years and the rest put into your "Helping out" fund.

I just love the paper, thanks for all your great work.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Marron

Battery A - 84th F. A. Bn.
Cpl. Salvatore J. Sapienza

Thank you for the Octofoil, my husband enjoyed reading it. Please remove him from the mailing list as he passed away at 85 years old on June 29, 2003.

Would like some of his friends to know that he died.

Thank You,
Nancy Sapienza (wife)

Co. K - 47th Inf.
Chester H. Jordan

FROM THE GRAVE !!

The doctor's prediction of my eminent demise was grossly exaggerated. The cancer is growing, but not at a rapid rate. Heavy physical jobs, like cutting down a tree and disposing it, poops me in a hurry. Tasks that once took a half a day, now require three. Just getting out of a chair is a challenge. However, if I just sit on my butt and read, I hardly notice the difference from the days before they were numbered.

TROOPS

As usual, the only two who communicate, JOE KILLACKY and HELEN HOLMES, have communicated. JOE with a monthly call and HELEN who sends a letter, just before or just after, a trip - -which is often.

DR. NICKLIN has called and written several times with a miracle cure for my BIG C, but my doctor goes thru the literature and says they don't apply to my situation. Of course, my doctor may just be getting tired of the e-mails I send him about medical miracles, gleaned from periodicals, and would like for me to fall, not shuffle, off this mortal coil.

I am sure that RED THOMPSON and ETHEL are just not in shape, or mood, for socializing. If I want to hear from Bastedo, Ingram, Scoop or any of the others, I have to call them. - WRONG

My admonition to my sons, early and often, I MAY NOT BE RIGHT, BUT I'M NEVER WRONG has sprung a leak. I was wrong about the WWII MEMORIAL.

The first thing that turned me off, was having an Admiral sending me a weekly letter seeking funds to build a memorial to ME. Also, the rendering they enclosed did not please my eye, but my oldest son e-mailed me photos of the completed project that proved that I was mistaken.

The scale is truly monumental, it is so big that I bet there are few of the WWII vets left who can walk from one side to the other. My fear that it would mar the relationship between the Washington and Lincoln Memorials didn't happen, it may have emphasized the link.

On the fountain dedicated to Northern European campaign, three of K Company's battles were honored - HUERTGEN, BULGE, and REMAGEN. They have a wall of Gold Stars, each star represents a certain number of killed, the wall the total. It is called the PRICE OF FREEDOM.

They have a registry of WWII vets on the web, and I urge all K MEN to register themselves and any friend who might not be able to do so. My son registered me. It is a nice page with your name, rank, place of origin, and your military history. DO IT TODAY, there may be no tomorrow. You may be able to come up with a better record than Kerry. The registry is at wwimemorial.com

(The Company K newsletter included four color photos of the WWII Memorial, and one color photo of the Korean Memorial with a caption, "I still feel like the KOREAN is the best.")

2nd Bn. Hdq. Co. - 39th inf.
Arthur G. Lindquist

I am paying my three years dues. I'm sorry I was late but I have Macular Degeneration. So, I have someone writing for me. I have enclosed a check for three years dues and an extra for the Memorial Fund. I live in a Retirement Home, so if anyone wants to write me or get in touch I would love to hear from others.

Sincerely,
Arthur G. Lindquist

Co. K - 47th Inf.
Joseph. J. Killacky

Just a line to let you know that K Company - 47th Inf. lost a great guy recently. Evan "Red" Thompson passed away at age 94! Red got shot up pretty good at Frenzenberg Castle. Older than most of us at the time, he never complained He and his wife, Ethel were mainstays at our Ninth reunions. Red was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1987

Please apply the attached check to the Memorial fund in honor of Red and all of the deceased of K - 47

Best Regards,

The other Joe K.

P.S. Thought you might enjoy the story of his basketball days.

MAIL CALL

(Continued from Page 7)

Co. G - 60th Inf.
John H. Doxsee
Capt. Jason L. Morris c/o Ken Morris

I am writing to inform you of the loss of Major John H. Doxsee, former member of the 9th Infantry Division, 60th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company G. He passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 21, 2004 in Cartwright, Oklahoma. The funeral service was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Durant, Oklahoma on January 24th 2004 with full military honors.

He first joined the 9th Division in the summer of 1942. Immediately he became a part of the Operation TORCH landings at Port Lyautey. From there he also was involved in the Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns culminating in the D-Day invasion. After his active duty military service ended in 1945 he remained a member of the Army Reserves being based at El Paso, Texas. He brought back his bride, Margaret Doreen Harrison, whom he met in England before the end of the war. He raised three wonderful daughters, Elisabeth, Fran and Jody Doxsee.

With his passing, I am trying to put together a narrative of his wartime services. While he was alive, we spent a lot of time discussing his war experiences, but I would like to assemble more information about him and the people surrounding him during the war. If anyone has any information that they can share, it would be greatly appreciated by the entire family. Please forward any inquiries or contact information to the postal address above, or to this e-mail address <jasonmorris97@hotmail.com>

I am being re-assigned to NATO in Germany on May 19th, 2004, so the mailing address is that of my parents who will be able to forward any mail to my address.

Please feel free to visit a new web site in honor of the 60th Infantry Regiment.

<<http://www.60thinfantryregiment.com>>

Thanks

Capt. Jason L. Morris
USAF

1st Bn. Hdq. Co. - 47th Inf.
Ralph De Forest

Enclosed is a check for dues for my father, Ralph DeForest. He was in the 9th Infantry Division, 47th Regiment, 1st Batt., Hdq. Company, Ammo and Pioneer Platoon. He served from June 1941 to June 1945. He was in the European Theatre campaigns from Oct.-Nov. 1942 to June 1945. He did the invasions in Safi, Sicily, and Normandy; he was in the Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland and Central Europe.

He has the Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, Pre-Pearl Harbor (American Defense Medal) and the EAME Medal with eight battle stars and an invasion arrowhead. He and his buddy, Tom Cobb, were both wounded on Easter Sunday 1945.

My Father, Ralph DeForest, is now living in Assisted Living in Georgia where I am. We can all visit a lot which we all really enjoy. He also gets to visit often with his good WW II buddy, Tom Cobb.

L. Johanson for Ralph De Forest.

1st Bn. Hdq. Co. - 47th Inf.
Thomas L. Cobb

The 9th Inf. Div. arrived in England in November 1943 to prepare for the D-Day landings. Before then we were in North Africa and Sicily. The Division headquarters was in Winchester. Other units of the Division were stationed in several places in Southern England. The 47th Regiment 1st Battalion Headquarters Company of about 175 officers and enlisted men arrived in the village of Arlesford by train shortly after dark.

It was a short walk to our living quarters in several buildings along West Street and the officers quarters were on Broad Street. The Ammo and Pioneer platoon of about 24 enlisted men and me had comfortable quarters in rooms over the corner pharmacy at West and Broad. We became acquainted with the village folks when we met on the street, when going and coming from the Company Mess Hall, or talking with them at night in the pubs. We left Arlesford in early June 1944 by truck convoy.

I watched on TV some of the 60th Anniversary of the June 6, 1944 D-Day landing in Normandy, France and other events that took place there at a later date. Some of the scenes looked a little familiar to me.

As I recall the Division left England and arrived at Utah Beach that afternoon, June 10, 1944. A busy place, many barrage balloons on long steel cables floating high in the sky, landing craft with troops and vehicles coming and going, battleships in line firing their guns, big puffs of black smoke belching from the gun barrels and floating away.

We went over and down the side of the ship to the landing craft and headed for the beach in the distance. At brief intervals the sound of machine guns firing and shells exploding. We met a landing craft loaded with wounded. Some were lying on stretchers, others were standing and they waved as we passed. In a few minutes, we stepped off into Knee deep water and quickly crossed the beach to the tree line.

We were in the countryside of hedge-rows, cow pastures and cows amid evidence that American paratroopers had been in the area. Narrow roads filled with tanks, trucks and other Army vehicles; beside the road burned out German tanks and wrecked vehicles amid the battlefield carnage left by the retreating Germans.

We cut across the Cotentin Peninsula and then on June 27, 1944 captured the seaport of Cherbourg and took many German prisoners. In less than a year later the European war ended in Germany.

Sunday, June 6, 2004. It is hard to realize now that 60 years ago the Allied forces landed in Normandy, France. As I watched on TV the boys in their early 20's leaving the landing craft and coming ashore in waist deep water. Now, some of them returned to the same place as old men in their mid-80's to tell of their experiences and to take part in the day's ceremonies. At the cemetery, a wreath was placed at the long rows of white crosses.

As ever,
Thomas

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION'S 58th ANNUAL REUNION

Our reunion was held at the Lancaster Host Hotel, Lancaster, PA on April 22, 23 and 24, 2003. The following is an accounting of our debits and credits.

CREDIT	(Incoming)	+ \$16,460.00
DEBIT	(Outgoing)	
	Disc Jockey	250.00
	Singers	150.00
	The Pros	125.00
	Lancaster Host	1,540.00
	Lancaster Host	2,314.82
	Dinner Theater	7,200.00
	Favors (pens)	150.00
	Flowers	275.00
	Candles	30.00
	Tips	200.00
	Programs	445.00
	Table Wine	826.00
	Refunds (20 @ \$150.00)	3,000.00
	TOTAL DEBIT	\$16,505.82
	CREDIT	+ 16,460.00
	GRAND TOTAL	- \$ 45.82

Albert Perna
Reunion Committee Chairman

Co. L - 47th Inf.

Richard L. Stoltz

The 9th Infantry Division Association's 59th Annual Reunion was a great success, with good eats and good entertainment and a lot of talking with good Ex-soldiers. The 47th Regiment, L Company was well represented with 5 of us old Purple Heart men fighting the Germans on the front lines. Henry Geary was also a POW for a short time.

I don't know what happened to Tony DeRobertis not being in our picture, he was our company runner, so I guess he is still running, trying to find his way with vision only in one eye. Hey guys, remember when we were 18 and 19 fighting the grand daddy war of all times. Remembering - All gave some and some gave all.

The young soldiers standing were our color guard at the Memorial Service. They were from the New York Military Academy and United States Army Master Sergeant (Ret.) William J. Lewis is their Instructor. They were a militarily precise coordinated team as they performed the presenting of the colors. A pleasure to behold. I will be sending a copy of this photo to the color guard as I promised. We are all proud of all the YOUNG Soldiers that are taking our place, as us old men fade off into history.

Richard L. Stoltz



THE OLD AND THE YOUNG

Standing - The Color Guard from New York Military Academy May 12, 2004 - 59th Reunion Kutsher's, Monticello, NY. Seated (L-R) members of Co. L-47th Inf. Henry Geary, Clarence Ray, Dick Stoltz, Ira Mosser. Missing from Photo is Tony DeRobertis.

THE OCTOFOIL

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