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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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11-1-2004

## The Octofoil, November/December 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 5

Nov. - Dec., 2004

## Ninth Recon

*John Bonkowski  
19241 Angela Court  
Roseville, MI 48066*

The Octofoil came a day after Thanksgiving and gave us another reason to be thankful. That "Special Gift" has kept us together all these years. We'll be forever grateful to Danny Quinn for his dedicated effort, and to Joe Killen who took over the responsibilities when the time came. God's Blessings to both of you. Right after Thanksgiving Day I called to find out how Danny was doing. He was in the re-hab hospital, but I did have a nice chat with Marie. He's still not able to walk, and comes home for short periods. The family got together at one of the grandchildren's home, and Danny spent a couple of hours with them. Our best wishes and prayers go out to each and everyone of them.

Always sad to see all those on the Taps List, among them William Greco (34th FA). Our memories go way back to the Annual Conventions when our children were very young. My daughters Kathi and Jan would always be together with his daughter Sue. We all enjoyed seeing her ever-smiling Dad and pretty blond Mom gliding over the dance floor to the sounds of the "big bands." Now we send our condolences to Mrs. Mary Greco, daughter Suzanne, and the entire Greco family.

It was good to see the letter from the 9th Recon's Gordon Anderson with his latest address. Glad to have him back on the mailing list.

Back on October 16th Rose and I attended the Michigan Chapter's Fall Meeting at Secretary Marge Wisniewski's home in Richmond, MI. We were hoping to bring Bill and Suzanne DeBruyne, but they both were too ill to come along. Sue also had the misfortune of falling at home and had her hand in a cast.

Although the attendance was rather small, we had a newcomer, Gustov J. Heise. We had met once before in the '60s. On that occasion he honked his horn when he noticed my 9th Division license plate as we were leaving the GM Tech Center parking lot in Warren, MI. We pulled over and had a friendly chat. It so happened we both worked in the same facility, but in different areas. That was a long time ago, but it was great to meet again where we all had some memories to share. One of them was mentioned in a previous Octofoil when he wrote about his younger brother Arnold. They both were together when they joined the Ninth Infantry Division in Africa and were assigned to E Co. 60th. They served in the same platoon, squad, and on the same B.A.R. Team. The sad parting came when Arnold was mortally wounded near the town of Schmidt, Germany, and died in his brother's arms.

Whenever the Ol' Reliabilities meet there are stories to be told, and it was no different on that occasion. After a delicious luncheon we all took a drive to pay our respects at Ed Wisniewski's gravesite. For some, it was our first chance to do so.

A week later, Rose and I attended another Memorial Weekend in Worcester, MA. This time we weren't the only attendees from Michigan as 1st Vice President Tom Hatton flew in. It was good to see him there. Once again, our great friends from Worcester, Henry and Theresa met us in the lobby and we went out for a nice dinner together. Upon our return we enjoyed that friendly evening in the C.P. room.

In the morning we drove together to the Immaculate Conception Church, and we stopped at Father Connors Coffee Shop. Father Bill Champlin came down for a friendly chat while we were having some cake and coffee served by that ever-faithful parishioner. At the 10 o'clock Memorial Mass we were seated in a section of pews reserved for our group. Everything was traditional from the placing of the Octofoil wreath at the side of the altar, to the outdoor Memorial Program. (It didn't rain, so Father Connors left the sprinkling of Holy Water alone for Father Bill.)

Back at the Holiday Inn we were accommodated in the Worcester Room instead of the usual Garden Court. It was a fine arrangement for our group, which was about the same as last year. There were four different states represented at our table. John Maloney and his wife (VT), Charles and Mary McLhinney (MD), Henry and Theresa Shimkoski (MA), and Rose and I (MI). It was our pleasure being with them. President William Robey made a fine presentation of the coming 2005 Reunion. All the Officers present had a few words to say. Rose won one of the prize drawings. Then as luck would have it, she pulled my name and I came up with a fine souvenir booklet from the 50th Anniversary of D-Day in France.

Before you knew it, there were those final farewells and everyone was leaving for their destination. Ours was Herkimer, NY for the night before heading for home in the morning. It was a good trip with one regret. For the first time after all these years we didn't see our cousin on the way to the Memorial. She had a bad year at the convalescent home and wanted to be remembered as she was in happier times. Her wish was granted and we only talked with her on the cell phone, coming and going. All we could do is pray for her.

On November 14th it was a year since Pete Radichio left us. It was good working together on the Matt Urban Monument project. Sad he didn't live to see everything that we were hoping for, but we're still working on it.

With another Holiday Season upon us, Rose joins me in wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas and the very best in the New Year.

## President's Message

**by Bill Robey**

There is not a whole lot to add to all that was printed in the previous Octofoil. Although, there is one correction that everyone needs to be aware of.

In the front page article, column 2, paragraph 3, that starts off with "For some of you" the following changes need to be made.

Cancel this entire paragraph and substitute the following in its place:

"For those of you who like to have extra space for a hospitality room or CP, on the reservation form on the line for special requests, just enter "connecting rooms," and your reservation will be for two rooms. Any other special requests, such as special diets, etc., you should also note on this line."

Now is the time to start making reservations and to start putting aside the money to finance your trip to the reunion. Remember, make your checks or money orders payable to "60th Reunion 2005" and send your deposit of \$150 per person with your reservation form. Balance must be paid by August 1, 2005.

I attended the Memorial Service in Worcester, MA, and was pleasantly surprised by the good turnout. Herb Olsen and his wife did a very good job in organizing this event. Hope they continue for many years to come. I had a chance to speak to all who attended the Sunday Lunch, and almost everyone stated that they were planning to come to the 60th Reunion in 2005.

Our hotel is starting to put together a web site for us, and they will operate it until the reunion is over, and then they will give us the web site to operate on our own. It is not quite ready for public use just yet, but by the time the next Octofoil comes out we will publish the web site address so everyone may take a look at it.

Mary Blann Cooper, Jack Blann's daughter, has volunteered to take over the operation of the web site, and I am very pleased to see that some of our sons and daughters are really taking an interest in what the old folks are doing. I would like to see a large turnout of sons and daughters and grandchildren at the reunion. Encourage your families to come with you. You might be surprised how many of them are developing an interest in the WW II history and events.

John Sabato, son of John Sabato of the 39th, has also volunteered to help with the registration desk, and he is also going to make name tags for everyone who attends.

I recently talked to Marty Gross and Emil DiDonato about the meeting of the Florida Chapter in November, and they reported that they had a good turnout of 28 people, everyone had a great time, and many were interested in the 2005 reunion.

I have talked to many members in the last couple of months, and everyone seems eager to come to the 2005 reunion. I hope this interest keeps up and the money starts to come in as soon as possible.

Speaking of money, I hope everyone realizes that our dues are the only source of income that we have. When we lose a member we lose the dues and that reduces our income. In most cases we continue to send the Octofoil to the family, at no cost to them, and that further increases our cost of publishing the Octofoil. By just looking into a mirror, you can realize that we are all getting a little older, and in order to keep our organization functioning we need to do something about the dues structure. This will be one of the subjects to be taken up at the business meeting at the reunion.

Some of our chapter members have not been paying their national association dues, possibly thinking that belonging to a chapter automatically makes them a member of the national association. It does not. Members must belong to the National Association before they can be a legitimate member of any chapter. The local chapters can collect the national dues and send them in, deducting a small amount for the chapter. This has not always been done properly, and I think that it needs to be enforced more efficiently. If national dues are not paid, then members are not eligible to receive the Octofoil, among other things, and I don't think anyone wants to miss out on receiving the Octofoil.

Our Secretary, Joe Killen, does a fine job with the Octofoil, and I hate to see his hard work go for nothing when non-members are receiving the same thing as those who pay their dues properly.

Our Octofoil is costing us an enormous amount of money each time, and the more free copies we send out the more it costs us. We have got to get these costs down, and one way is to eliminate the copies sent to those who do not pay their dues in proper fashion.

If you belong to one of our chapters, make sure that your local officers are collecting and forwarding the proper dues to the National Association. If they are not, then send your dues directly to our National Treasurer so that we know you

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**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  
Goerge 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.  
POST MASTER: Send address changes to 224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, NY 11580.  
Volume LIX Number 5 Nov. - Dec., 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 .....

**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION**  
**FRIDAY to SUNDAY - SEP 23 TO 25, 2005**  
**CRYSTAL CITY MARRIOTT HOTEL**  
**1999 Jefferson Davis Highway-US Route # 1**  
**Arlington, VA 22202**  
Make payments by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER payable to  
"60<sup>th</sup> Reunion 2005"  
Mail the completed Registration Form with the check to:  
William G Robey, Pres.  
[redacted]

Deposits of \$150 per person must be made by April 1, 2005. Final payment MUST BE MADE BY AUGUST 1, 2005.. Reservations made after Aug 1, 2005, will be subject to room availability. If final payment is not made by August 1, 2005, then deposit will be refunded. Only checks cashed through the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association's account will not be subject to sales taxes, as we are a tax exempt organization. For more information, call Bill Robey, toll free at 1-866-229-2377, pin# 3322. You may use a copy of the registration form if you do not want to cut up your Octofoil.

**9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**

**Room Reservations**

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

9<sup>th</sup> Div Unit (Regt, Co. Btry): \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone- Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Work: \_\_\_\_\_

If other than M/M, I will share with: \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests:(Handicap Room, special diet, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM RATES PER PERSON: for our 3 night stay, which includes rooms, beer party, banquet, bus trans to WW II Memorial for Memorial Ceremony, 3 breakfasts, including all gratuities and Saturday night entertainment show.  
Accommodations: Please indicate: **These prices are PER PERSON.**

SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	QUAD
\$587.00	\$422.00	\$368.00	\$338.00

Hotel will give us the same special rate for 2 days before and 2 days after our reunion for those who want to stay longer in the DC area. Please indicate on form if you wish extra days. Cost will be added to above. Members who live near the Washington DC area may not want to stay at the hotel. The costs for meals, etc., will be figured separately for those who only want to attend functions and not stay at the hotel. Check with Bill Robey at above phone number for these costs.

**Directions to the Hotel**  
  
From the North: Follow I-95 South until you cross the Potomac River into Virginia. Take the first exit that says Route 1 North. Follow Route 1 until you see a sign for Crystal Drive. Take Crystal Drive to 20th Street and turn left. Last building on the right is the hotel.  
  
From the South: Follow I-95 North to last exit in Virginia, exit 1. Take Route 1 North and follow above directions.  
  
From the South West: North on I-81 to I-66. Follow I-66 East until you see signs for Reagan National Airport. Follow these signs until you see the Exit for Route 1. Exit here and follow Route 1 south to 23rd Street and turn left. Then left on Crystal Drive to 20th Street and left on 20th to hotel.  
  
From the North West: Pennsylvania Turnpike or I-70 at Frederick, MD. I-270 south towards Washington, DC. At the I-270 split then follow signs leading to Virginia. Cross the Potomac River and take the exit for George Washington Parkway. Follow Parkway till you see signs for Reagan National Airport and follow above directions to the hotel.  
  
From Downtown Washington: Take 14th Street NW, which is Route 1 South, cross the Potomac River and follow Route 1 South to 23rd Street and then follow above directions to hotel.  
  
From the East: US 50 West to I-95/495. Follow I-95 South across the Potomac River and then follow directions above.



## TIP OF THE HAT

*We thank the following members and friends for remembering the Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.*

**John Bonkowski** in memory of **Edwin Wisniewski** (Service Co. - 47th Inf.), **William C. Greco** (Btry A - 34th F.A.), **Peter A. Radichio** (Co. B - 9th Medical Bn.), **Arnold Heise** (Co. E - 60th Inf.), and **Matt Urban** (Co. F - 60th Inf.)

**James F. Hart, Jr.** in memory of his buddies from Co. K - 60th Inf.

**Emery W. Berghorn** in memory of his buddies from the 26th Field Artillery Battalion.

**Frank Dennis** in memory of his buddy, **Edward F. Pavlich** of Co. F - 60th Inf.

**Benjamin Kovacs** in memory of **Mike Pelle** of 3rd Bn. Hdq. Co. - 47th Inf. and

**Julius Andrasi** of Anti-Tank Co. - 47th Inf.

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

**Albert J. Baccile** remembering his memorable "B" Co. - 39th Inf. buddies who have passed on.

**Domer Miller** in memory of his buddy **Edward F. Pavlich** of Co. F - 60th Inf.

**Mrs. Rosemarie Werkman** in loving memory of her husband, **Henry T. (Hank) Werkman** of Co. H - 39th Inf.

**Mrs. Ann Elichko** in memory of her dear husband, **John Elichko** of Co. M - 60th Inf.

**John H. Maloney** in memory of all deceased buddies of the Ninth Infantry Division.

**Edward E. Rickert** in memory of Co. A - 15th Engr. Bn.'s Christmas in Africa.

**George H. Brown** in memory of **William C. Greco** of Battery A - 34th F. A. Bn.

**Herbert Stern** in memory of **John Diener** of Co. D - 9th Medical Bn.

**Bonnie K. Olson** in memory of her uncle, **Lewis Annear** of Co. A - 47th Inf. (KIA 7/11/44)

**John Compel** in memory of his buddies of 2nd Bn. Hdq. Co. - 60th Inf.

**Walter J. Labaj** in memory of the men in the Medical Detachment of the 1st Bn. - 60th Inf.

**Lawrence J. McLaughlin** in memory of the men of Cos. A & F - 47th Inf.

**Walter S. Stanko** in memory of his buddies of Co. D - 47th Inf.

**Mrs. Irene M. Steele** in memory of her husband **Frank B. "Barney" Steele** of both B Battery and Service Battery - 34th F. A. Bn.

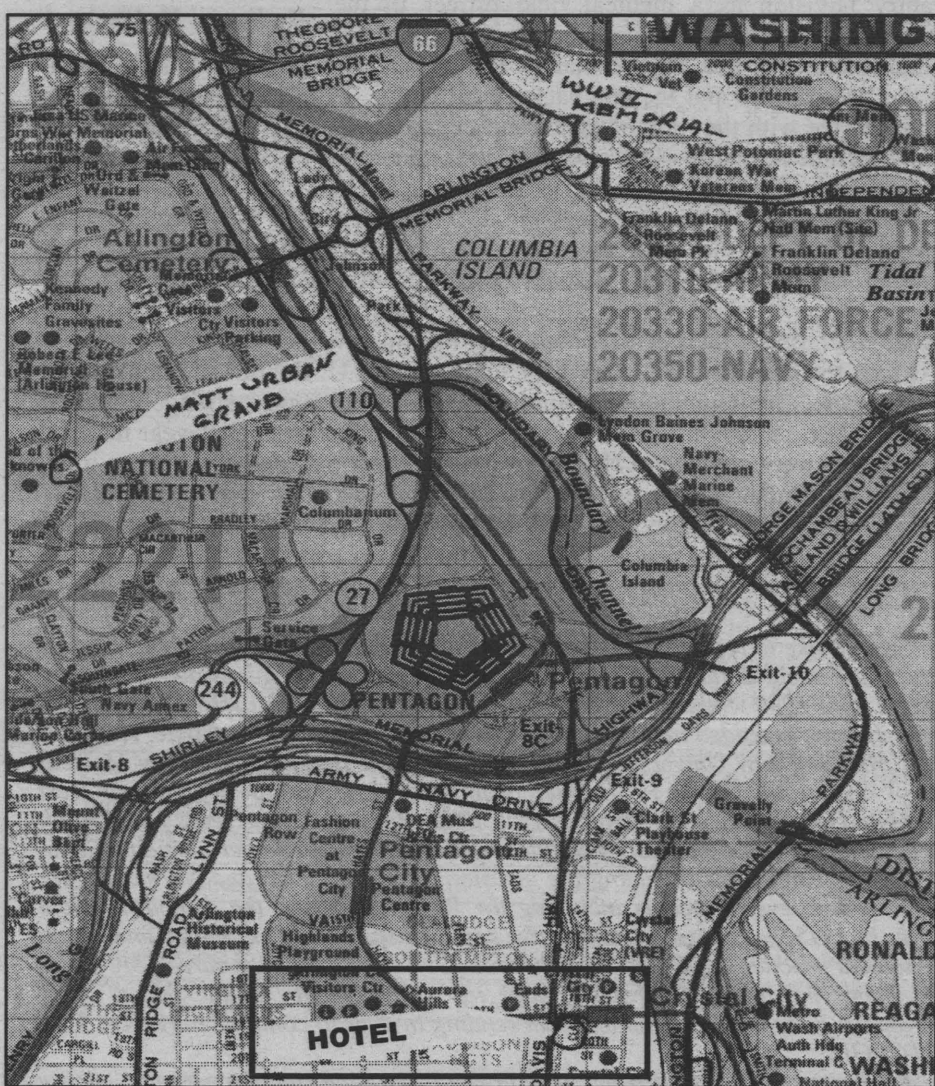
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**William C. Greco** of Battery A - 34th F. A. Bn.

**Charles L. and Mary McLhinney** in HONOR of **Dan and Marie Quinn** for their many years of dedicated service to the Association.



## LADIES CORNER

Hello Ladies,

I would like to wish everyone who reads this column a very healthy 2005 and hope that you all had an enjoyable and festive holiday season.

I have been busy trying to coordinate our Ladies Luncheon with our Reunion hotel and so far I am not making progress as quick as I would like to make it. Nothing major, only minor glitches that have to be ironed out. Sorry to say, other than that there is nothing to report.

Well, till the next paper, start a project for the table, or shop around for a donation item. Let's try to make our 60th Reunion the best ever.

Good health to all,

Sincerely,

Jean Geary, Ladies Auxiliary President

\*\*\*\*\*

### Sons and Daughters of the NINTH

Holiday Greetings from Texas!

All of you sons and daughters, listen up. Send in your names and addresses to get on our mailing list. We are planning big things for the Reunion, and we don't want you to miss out. Let us hear from you.

Mary Blann Cooper

\*\*\*\*\*

Rosemarie Werkman

Poet Laureate of Orange County

I've renewed my membership (under separate cover on 12/1/04) in memory of my husband, **Henry J. Werkman**, H Co., 39th Infantry, Silver Star medalist. His walk across Europe was extensive; he participated in several D-Days.

Hank was particularly proud of his affiliation with AAA-O; Anything, Anywhere, Anytime, Bar Nothing. The colorful Paddy Flint was the commander who "rode a tank like it was a buckin' bronco".

Hank lost his right leg as a result of shrapnel wounds sustained in the Battle of the Bulge. He lost his second leg seven years before he died; he just plain used it up! He never gave up; and was a hero in all his endeavors after the shooting was over.

Thank you for the OCTOFOIL . . . and remembering that they all were heros.

Rosemarie Werkman

Author: "LOVE, WAR & REMEMBRANCE"

Trillium Press, Unionville, NY

## President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

are properly registered.

Joe Killen and I have been having quite a bit of discussion about the way the Octofoil is being mailed. There seems to be some blockage in the Post Office that is causing our Octofoil to be delayed unnecessarily. In my own case, the past issue was one month getting from the printer to me. As of this first week in December I have heard from a lot of others about the delays, and we are going to try to do something to expedite this issue. This issue should be out in the first week of January. If you do not get your Octofoil by the 15th of January, let Joe or I know so that we can follow up on why it is not being mailed properly.

So for now, start sending in your reservations for the reunion, and I will have more news in the next Octofoil.

Bill Robey,  
15th Engineers,  
President

**The Deadline for the  
submission of copy for the next issue  
is February 20<sup>th</sup>**



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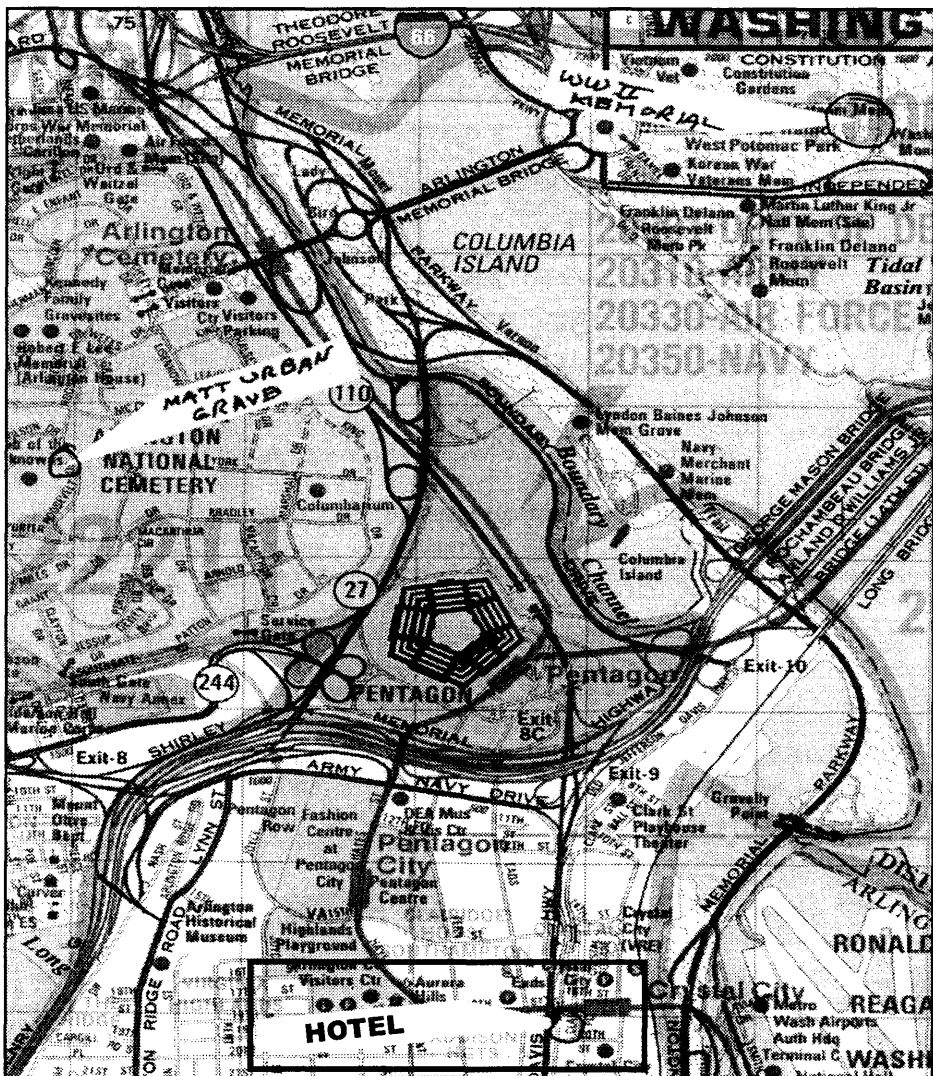
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Bill Robey,  
15th Engineers,  
President

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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

Paul D. Clark Co. D - 60th Inf.	Walter F. Clark Co. M - 39th Inf.
M. Lee Shumaker Service Co. - 60th Inf.	John Diener Co. D - 9th Medical Bn.
Herbert C. Chaffey Co. A - 15th Engrs. Bn.	Frank B. "Barney" Steele Serv. & B Bttrys - 34th F. A.
Samuel D. Robinson Battery B - 84th F. A. Bn.	Mrs. Alice E. Caswell widow of Norman Caswell of Co. B - 47th Inf. Regt. and 1985 National President.
Horace M. Spaulding Co. H - 47th Inf.	

Service Battery - 34th F. A. Bn.  
Frank B. "Barney" Steele

Enclosed is a check I am sending in memory of my husband Frank B. "Barney" Steele, who passed away in the Edith N. Rogers Veterans Hospital in Bedford, MA on August 13, 2004. Frank served in both B Battery and Service Battery of the 34th Field Artillery. He was in the 9th Infantry Division, starting from February 1941 and straight through to September 1945. Frank started losing his memory when he was about 77 years old. He was admitted to the VA Hospital in April 2003 and was 85 years at the time of his death. He was treated wonderfully at the hospital during his stay there. Sincerely, Mrs. Irene M. Steele

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Co. D - 60th Inf.  
Paul D. Clark

I am writing to inform you of the death of Paul D. Clark, formerly with Company D of the 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment. He has been in a nursing home for about 5 years and his wife, Lorraine Clark, called me last week to say he had died November 12, 2004. He was a member of the Illinois Chapter and the Clarks used to come to all of the reunions when he was able.

She said she has not gotten any Octofoils lately. Could you send her one about the Reunion coming up in Washington, DC in September 2005. Her address is Mrs. Lorraine Clark at (address above), and make a note of this in an up coming Octofoil. The last one I received was May-June-July 2004. Thank you.

Mrs. Agnes Speers  
5 Patricia Avenue, Albany, NY 12203  
(Editor's note: Looking after each other and reporting in is what we're all about. Thank you, Agnes, for the fine example that you set for everyone of us to follow. I'm happy that you are on our side.)

\*\*\*\*\*

9th Div. Hdq. Co.  
Herb Stern

Enclosed check is for the Association's Scholarship Fund in the name of John A. Diener, who had been a Staff Sergeant in Co. D, 9th Medical Battalion 1941 - 1945. John passed away peacefully after a brief illness on November 23, 2004. He was 87 years old.

John was a close friend. We had known each other since the end of the Carolina maneuvers in 1941 when both of us joined the 9th Division. Our families became close friends after the war. John, and his wife Veronica lived in New Jersey, where John had worked as an executive of the Siemens Medical Division. John and I joined the Association at the New York reunion in 1946, and attended numerous early reunions. After some years he did not keep up his membership but continued his interest in the 9th all those years.

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Co. A - 15th Eng. Bn.  
Dwight D. Merrill  
James S. Merrill

Really good to see you folks again, father and my brothers enjoyed the service, etc. at Worcester. We are looking forward to Washington, DC if all goes well. The names of the two soldiers who passed are: Herbert C. Chaffey, of Company A - 15th Engineers and Frank Warren Haines, Jr. of Headquarters Battery - 84th F. A. Battalion. You may have them both recorded but father wanted them sent to you, to be sure. Best Wishes, Dwight, Jim, John, and Rick Merrill

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Battery B - 84th F. A. Battalion  
Samuel D. Robinson

Taps sounded for my father on July 30th, 2004. He was a lifelong member of the Association and was proud to have served with General Westmoreland as his CO in WW II. We always attended the Memorial services in Worcester and have fond memories of Father Connors and many of my father's fellow veterans. I recently visited his best friend whom he served with, Henry (Hank) Downs in Rock Hill, SC with the flag given to my mother by the US Government when Sam was buried. Hank shared many personal moments he had with my father and helped provide closure. This honor of serving his country and the plaque upon his grave indicating his service was a proud moment for me. The loss of WWII veterans every day is a reality. I carry my father's WWII Memorial card with me as a reminder of his dedication to allow us the freedom we have.

I have enclosed a poem written by my father while in a foxhole in Africa in 1943.

The Poem

I must hurry now and go for the time is drawing near,  
And when it comes I wonder if my life will seem so clear,  
For like a child I fear the dark, I love the lightsome day,  
I love to hear the joyous mirth of little ones at play.

I'd love to kiss my mother's face and smooth that worried brow,  
I'd love to shake my father's hand: I'd love to be home now,  
I'd love to do all those things that are a part of American life,  
But they can't be done 'till the war is won, that's the reason for the strife.

So I must hurry now and go, for my time is drawing near,  
But within my heart and within my soul, there'll be a lurking fear,  
That men with twisted minds and twisted souls to me will not be true,  
And again the world will lose its mind, and youth will die anew.  
So you America, preserve that trust and keep our banners high!  
And for you America, and you alone then gladly I will die.  
I must hurry now and go, for my time is drawing near,  
And when it comes, if all is true, I will have no fear.  
by Samuel D. Robinson, in a foxhole somewhere in North Africa with the 9th Infantry Division, U.S. Army in 1943.

OBITUARY

Dr. Russel M. Hummel  
Oct. 3, 1915 - Sept. 26, 2001

Des Moines, IA - Dr. Russel M. Hummel, 85, died Sept. 26 in Metropolitan Medical Center. He resided in Marion his entire life until two years ago when he moved to Bickford Cottage Assisted Living.

He graduated from DePauw University in 1937 and Indiana University Medical School in 1941. He entered the Army in 1942. He served three years in the Ninth Infantry Division as a medical field officer in the European Theater participating in eight major campaigns including North Africa and Normandy. He was awarded several medals including the Bronze Star and the combat medical badge. In 1945 he separated from active service with the rank of major and began his medical practice in Marion from which he retired in 1991 after a 50-year career.

Strange Coincidences...

Perhaps an astrologer could explain it, for although one was born under the sign of Libra and the other under Sagittarius, two I.U. doctors, Russell M. Hummel, MD'41, and Joe E. Humphreys BS'38, MD'41, now taking refresher training at the Medical Center from after release from military service, can claim greater similarity in their careers than most identical twins.

From the day in 1937 when they entered the I.U. School of Medicine at Bloomington, Drs. Hummel and Humphreys have followed a strangely similar path. The two sat side by side in classrooms throughout their four-year medical course, both were pledged to Delta Upsilon and were initiated at the same time, received their medical degrees together, sitting next to each other at commencement. They entered military service at the same time, were sent to the same place and received the Bronze Star at the same time. They were discharged on the same day and were married in the same year. They both have reddish brown hair.

*I would like to report the passing of my father, Dr. Russel M. Hummel. He was in the 9th Medical Battalion, Company D of the 60th Infantry. He resided in Marion, Indiana until 1999 when he moved to Des Moines, Iowa to an assisted living residence. He was preceded in death by his wife and my mother, Edna Hogle. He graduated from DePauw University in 1937 and attended Indiana University Medical School and graduated in 1941. After completing postgraduate training at West Suburban Hospital, he entered the Army in 1942. He served three years in the Ninth Infantry Division as a medical field officer in the European Theater participating in eight major campaigns including the invasion of North Africa and Normandy. He was awarded several medals including the Bronze Star and the combat medical badge. In 1945, he separated from active service with the rank of major and began his medical practice in Marion. He retired in 1991 after a 50-year career. My father was a kind man who was proud to have served his country by the side of many courageous Veterans. In his honor, I am sending in dues to continue to receive THE OCTOFOIL.*

*If anyone knew my father and would like to share information with me, please write to: Beverly A. Phillips. 14926 Sheridan Circle Clive IA 50325*



Dr. Russel M. Hummel



NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNIONS AND PAST PRESIDENTS As of: 7/20/2004					
Reunion	Year	Dates	New President elected	Location	Hotel
First	1946	Aug 2-3	George W. Smythe*	New York, NY	New Yorker
Second	1947	Jun 12-14	Henry S. Rigby	Columbus, OH	Deshler-Wallick
Third	1948	Jul 29-31	Donald M. Clarke*	Philadelphia, PA	Benjamin Franklin
Fourth	1949	Jun 30-Jul 2	Donald M. Clarke*	Pittsburgh, PA	William Penn
Fifth	1950	Jul 13-15	Donald M. Clarke*	Chicago, IL	Sherman
Sixth	1951	Jul 26-28	Albert E. Bruchac	New York, NY	Commodore
Seventh	1952	Jul 24-26	FrankB. Wade*	Boston, MA	Statler
Eighth	1953	Jul 16-18	Richard C. Storey*	Washington, DC	Shoreham
Ninth	1954	Jul 29-31	George W. Smythe*	New York, NY	New Yorker
Tenth	1955	Jul 28-30	Everett W. Linscott	Philadelphia, PA	Bellevue-Stratford
Eleventh	1956	Jul 26-29	William C. Westmoreland	Chicago, IL	Morrison
Twelfth	1957	Jul 4-6	John J. Clouser	Boston, MA	Statler
Thirteenth	1958	Jul 31-Aug 2	Frank B. Wade*	Columbus, OH	Deshler-Hilton
Fourteenth	1959	Jul 30-Aug 1	Glenn O. Moore*	New York, NY	Statler-Hilton
Fifteenth	1960	Jul 28-30	Frank T. Ozart*	Washington, DC	Shoreham
Sixteenth	1961	Jul 27-29	John Sabato	Detroit, MI	Sheraton-Cadillac
Seventeenth	1962	Jul26-28	Francis K. Maher*	Ft Bragg, Fayetteville,NC	Prince Charles
Eighteenth	1963	Jul 25-27	John J. Clouser	Springfield, IL	St. Nicholas
Nineteenth	1964	Jul 23-25	Walter J. O'Keeffe*	Philadelphia, PA	Sheraton
Twentieth	1965	Jul 29-31	John X. Bonkowski	New York, NY	Statler-Hilton
Twenty-first	1966	Jul 28-30	Emil P. Langer	Washington, DC	Shoreham
Twenty-second	1967	Jul 20-22	Paul D. Keller	Boston, MA	Sheraton
Twenty-third	1968	Jul 18-20	Herbert Olsen	Detroit, MI	Statler-Hilton
Twenty-fourth	1969	Jul 24-26	John Rizzo*	Pittsburgh, PA	Howard Johnson
Twenty-fifth	1970	Jul 23-25	Frank T. Ozart*	New York, NY	Commodore
Twenty-sixth	1971	Jul 29-31	Leonard Tomassone	Springfield, IL	Holiday Inn East
Twenty-seventh	1972	Jul 27-29	Ronald V. Murphy*	Atlantic City, NJ	Shelburne
Twenty-eighth	1973	Jul 26-28	Fred M. Josey*	Boston, MA	Sheraton
Twenty-ninth	1974	Aug 1-3	Richard Wilson	Atlanta, GA	Sheraton-Biltmore
Thirtieth	1975	Jul 24-26	Walter J. O'Keeffe*	Detroit, MI	Heritage House
Thirty-first	1976	Jul 22-24	Charles N. Koskie*	New York, NY	Statler-Hilton
Thirty-second	1977	Jul 28-30	Albert Perna	Chicago, IL	Hyatt-Regency
Thirty-third	1978	Jul 28-30	Francis K. Maher*	Philadelphia, PA	Sheraton
Thirty-fourth	1979	Jul 26-28	Robert J. DeSandy	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Galt Oceanside
Thirty-fifth	1980	Jul 17-19	William Bongiorno	Washington, DC	Shoreham
Thirty-sixth	1981	Jul 25-27	John J. Clouser	Hyannis, MA	Dunfey's Hyannis
Thirty-seventh	1982	Jun 24-26	Emil P. Langer	Ft Bragg, Fayetteville,NC	Bordeaux
Thirty-eighth	1983	Jul 21-23	Thomas Boyle*	Detroit, MI	Westin
Thirty-ninth	1984	Jun 21-23	Elmer R. Wagner	Lake Placid, NY	Holiday Inn
Fortieth	1985	Jun 6-8	Norman L. Caswell*	Orlando, FL	Sheraton Twin Towers
Forty-first	1986	Jun 26-28	Carlos B. Esteva	Nashville, TN	Radisson Plaza
Forty-second	1987	Jul 23-25	Emil P. Langer	Camp Hill, PA	Penn Harris
Forty-third	1988	Jun 23-25	David H. Heller	Hyannis, MA	Tara Hyannis
Forty-fourth	1989	Jun 19-23	Henry R. Santos*	South Fallsburg, NY	Pines Resort
Forty-fifth	1990	Oct 4-6	Michael Belmonte	Orlando, FL	Marriott
Forty-sixth	1991	Sep 19-21	Edward Hopkins*	Milwaukee, WI (IL Chap)	Grand Milwaukee
Forty-seventh	1992	Jun 11-13	John Miller	Ft Bragg, Fayetteville,NC	Holiday Inn/Bordeaux Inn
Forty-eighth	1993	Oct7-9	Edwin Wisniewski*	San Antonio, TX	Holiday Inn
Forty-ninth	1994	Jun 9-11	John O'Grady	Lake Placid, NY	Holiday Inn/Sunspree Rsrst
Fiftieth	1995	May 25-27	Henry Phillips	New Orleans (FL Chap)	Clarion
Fifty-first	1996	Jun 4-7	Albert Perna	Kiamesha Lake, NY	Concord
Fifty-second	1997	May 22-25	Thomas Hatton	Louisville, KY	Galt House
Fifty-third	1998	May 5-7	Jack Collier	Hampton, VA	Holiday Inn
Fifty-fourth	1999	May 23-25	Martin Gross	Hyannis, MA	Four Points
Fifty-fifth	2000	May 2-5	Jack Blann	Monticello, NY	Kutsher's Country Club
Fifty-sixth	2001	May 17-20	Albert Perna	Houston, TX	Adam's Mark
Fifty-seventh	2002	May 7-9	George H. Brown	Pigeon Forge, TN	Country Inn
Fifty-eighth	2003	April 22-24	Elmer R. Wagner	Lancaster, PA	Lancaster Host Resort
Fifty-ninth	2004	May 10-13	William G. Robey	Monticello, NY	Kutsher's Country Club
Sixtieth	2005	Sep 23-25	?? ??	Arlington, VA	Crystal City Marriott
Compiled by Dave Heller, 618 Sumac, Highland Park, IL 60035. Any additions or corrections would be appreciated.					
Thanks for help to: Ann and Mike Belmonte, Elmer Wagner, John Bonkowski, John Clouser, and Joseph Killen.					

## LOCAL CHAPTER OFFICERS TAKE SPECIAL NOTICE

from the Jan. - Feb. 2002 issue of the OCTOFOIL  
and adopted at the 57th General Meeting in Pigeon Forge, TN on May 8, 2002,  
an excerpt from the BY-LAWS of the ASSOCIATION:

### ARTICLE XIII LOCAL CHAPTERS

**Section 49.** Each local chapter shall hold an election of officers at least once every twenty-four (24) months and shall duly notify the national secretary of the results of the election. Any chapter failing to hold an election of officers within a twenty-four (24) month period shall be considered as being inactive. All monies and property of an inactive chapter shall be transmitted to the Association. This is the responsibility, in order of seniority, of any former officer or member of the inactive chapter.

\* \* \* \* \*

As the national secretary I look for the cooperation of all seven local chapters to comply with the above By-Law Section 49 by submitting the information required to this office no later than February 20, 2005, the closing date for the next issue of the OCTOFOIL. This information is long overdue from the New England chapter, the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley chapter, the Illinois chapter, the Michigan chapter and the Florida chapter, whose statement, "the same officers were elected" does not fit the requirements. Their correspondent had been warned against this practice by the national President and still he continues to write what he pleases.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Greater New York Area Chapter

On Friday, December 17, 2004 the NY Chapter met at the Franklin Square Library in Franklin Square, Long Island, NY. In the community room a short meeting was held to allow for the allotted time of our annual Holiday Party. At 1:00 PM Chapter prez Joe Maiale opened the meeting with the members Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent tribute for our departed comrades in war and since. Each 9thman was asked to call out names of fallen buddies. We followed with acknowledgement of POW/MIAs. Chaplain Joe Killen gave the convocation. Reading of Minutes and Financial reports were suspended.

#### Election of 2005 officers

Recording secretary Marv Levy read the names of the new chapter officers for 2005 who were nominated and elected by acclamation at the previous November meeting. They are: President-Ed Leddy; 1st VP-Tony Varone; 2nd VP-Marv Levy; Secretary/Treasurer-Joe Maiale (after many years of dedicated service Al Zenka relinquished his financial role but would assist Joe in his endeavor). Representing the 39th Infantry was Anton Dietrich; 47th-Joe Maiale, and 60th-Al Zenka. Judge Advocate and Chaplain-Joe Jillen; Sgt At Arms-Joe Charvat; Special Troops-Adolph Wadalavage; and Divarty-Al Lipton.

#### Presentations

Special presentations followed. Outgoing prez Joe Maiale received a walnut plaque with an Octofoil bicolor medallion from incoming prez Ed Leddy on behalf of the chapter for Maiale's dedicated work. In appreciation of the library's accommodation for our chapter meetings Joe Killen presented a reprint copy of the "8 Stars to Victory" book to the Franklin Square Library for their military historical section. The library staff has shown much interest in the 9th division WWII exploits since we have become a monthly guest.

#### The Party

With the official business finished library staff and members joined in the luncheon. We partook of Italian hot meals such as Chicken Parmigiana, Baked Ziti and Sausage and Peppers. Also, a 6-foot Hero of Italian cold cuts was offered. Beverages included soda, coffee and tea. A Cake inscribed with Happy Holidays from the 9th Div Assn was our dessert. For mementos of the occasion members received choice of decorated Christmas and Hanukkah Cups with an applied Octofoil decal, provided by Marv & Barbara Levy. The fare was delicious and the conversation scintillating. Everyone had a good time.

#### 50-50 Raffle

The library staff returned to their duties and the chapter drew the winning numbers for our 50-50 raffle. The winners are: \$250-Irene Przbyski; \$125-Bill Ring; \$75-Fred Falgiano; and \$50-Virginia Fitzgerald. \$10-each; Mrs. Peter Mastrangelo, Sabatino Agostinelli, George Bastido, Al Lipton, Nicholas Nichols, Marv Levy, Bill Muldoon, Mike Fazio, Anna Coffy, and Joseph Cichoki. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who joined in supporting our fund-raiser. One more raffle was held for two fruit cakes provided by Joe and Emma Killen and Adolph Wadalavage. They were won by Ed Leddy and Al & Geneieve Zenka. Everyone applauded Joe & Sadie Maiale for their planning and successful Holiday Party.

Those members and ladies attending were: Ed Harris, Ed Leddy, Adolph Wadalavage, Joe & Betty Charvat, Anton & Charlotte Dietrich, Joe & Emma Killen, Marv & Barbara Levy, Joe & Sadie Maiale, Dommer & Donna Miller, and Al & Geneieve Zenka.

#### On Sick Call

There were many other chapter members and ladies we hoped could join us on this special festive occasion but due to other commitments or illness were not able to attend, but we wish them all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy and Healthy New Year — which goes also for all 9th men everywhere.

Those who the chapter knows are on sick call at this time, we note with get-well wishes: Gerry Levinson, Al Lipton, Dan Quinn (back in the hospital for a stomach disorder), Joe Rzesniowiecki, Bill Muldoon, Carl Winter, and Tony Varone (who just returned home after 6 weeks at Northport VA Hospital for treatment of gout).

#### Calendar

There will be no meetings in January & February. Mark your calendar for these chapter meeting dates at the Franklin Square Library in 2005 on Fridays at 1:00 PM: March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, Sept. 16, Oct. 18, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16. The chapter looks forward to seeing you all in March (weather permitting).

### Dues Time

Well, 2005 brings out the membership dues notice: \$10 for 1 year, \$25 for 3 years and \$75 Lifetime. Make check payable to 9th Inf. Div. Assn. Greater NY Chapter and send to Secretary/Treasurer Joe Maiale, 906 3rd Avenue, Franklin Square, NY 11010.

Marv Levy, [REDACTED]

### Texas & The Greater Southwest Chapter Ninth Infantry Division Association

The Chapter returned to Summers Mill for our meeting on 11 November 2004.

The meeting was called to order by President John W. Miller. After the pledge of allegiance, the financial report was read by Ernie Botella relating a current balance of \$1,102.95.

A moment of silence for all those who could no longer be with us. In particular, Dick Granbery. Dick and Alice have long been substantial supporters of the Chapter, not only in our annual meetings but also in putting on the National Conventions in San Antonio and Houston.

Jack Blann reported on the last National Board Meeting: He was elected to replace Herb Stern. Herb, in turn was nominated to replace another forthcoming board vacancy.

John Miller reported that Cokie Inzer, widow of Colonel Ray Inzer, had passed away in June, 2004.

Three of our long time members, Willard Norris, Pete Rice, and Charles Scheffel, called in they would be unable to attend the 11 November meeting due to illness.

Those in attendance were M/M Jack Blann, M/M Ernie Botella, M/M John Miller, MM Herb Stern, and Gordon Schneider.

Gordon Schneider brought pictures of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. and materials he had received while attending the dedication in May, 2004. He encouraged all those who could to attend the National Convention September 23-25, 2005 at the Crystal City Marriott Hotel in Arlington, VA.

While reading the obituaries in the Fort Worth Star Telegram, on 26 December 2004, I noted the passing of a Horace M. Spaulding, age 91. An ROTC student while at North Dakota State University, he was called to active duty in 1940. "He commanded "H" Company, 47th Infantry, 9th Division in North Africa during World War II and was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Horace was taken prisoner at El Guettar Pass in Tunisia by General Rommel's troops in March of 1943 and imprisoned for 26 months in OFLAG 64 in Szubin, Poland." In 2003, he had moved to Arlington, TX to be near his son David Spaulding. Perhaps there are those who remember Major Spaulding from Fort Bragg and North Africa.

Gordon A. Schneider, 1250 W. Pioneer Parkway, Apt. 1223, Arlington, TX 76013.

### Florida Chapter Newsletter Sarasota Reunion - A Big Success

On the last day of the Florida Chapter Reunion held in Sarasota on November 17-20, the 28 persons who attended all said "Let's do it again next year." That's the mark of a successful and enjoyable reunion. Much credit goes to the Reunion Committee pre-planning. Chairman Marty Gross and his wife Rosalyn, were the forward echelon. They set out early in 2004 to reconnoiter the Sarasota area. They picked the AmericInn located a short distance off of I-75 as the Command Post. From there, they motored west on Fruitville Road 7 miles into downtown Sarasota to make arrangements for a boat cruise and lunch at Jack's Marina. Then to the Apple Blossom Theatre to purchase tickets to the Dinner/Show "Chicago."

Emil & Audrey De Donato handled the promotional program...the collection of monies...setting up the Hospitality Room and all other chores that make up for a successful reunion.

By 4:00 P.M. on November 17th, all 28 persons were safely registered at the AmericInn Hotel & Suites. At 7:00 P.M. Cafe Italia delivered 7 large pizzas and an over-sized salad platter to the Hospitality Room. An enjoyable Pizza/Beer/Soda and a variety of snacks party lasted until bedtime.

On Thursday morning, the group enjoyed a hearty breakfast compliments of the hotel followed by a 2 1/2 hour boat cruise with lunch taking in the sights of Sarasota

(Continued on Page 8)



## MAIL CALL

**Co. G - 60th Inf.**  
**Jesse M. Higginbotham**

My grandfather, Jesse M. Higginbotham Jr. lives in Plant City, Fl. He received a copy of the OCTOFOIL from a Mr. Monty McDaniel of Bloomington, Indiana. Mr. McDaniel found an item belonging to my grandfather for sale on e-bay. The item was his entrenching tool cover from 1943 with his name written on it. He contacted my grandfather about the item. Mr. McDaniel's uncle, Paul Alexander, had served in the same company with my grandfather. Mr. McDaniel made arrangements to purchase the item and send it to my grandfather. My grandfather shed many tears over the resurgence of memories that the phone call brought back.

My grandfather recognized a name or two in the OCTOFOIL and wanted to join and get a subscription to the paper. Thank you OCTOFOIL and especially Mr. Monty McDaniel for helping him find out where the past has gone.

Sincerely,  
Beth Langford

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**Co. M - 60th Inf.**  
**Boni Campos**

Man, it has been almost a year since we heard from each other; so I'm fine, still kicking around. I still drive and do my stores.

I want to thank you for the nice letter you wrote me, it sure helped and I was thinking only a chaplain could write a letter like that. Then I remember reading in the OCTOFOIL that you are really a chaplain for the New York chapter.

Well, I'm hoping you and your family have happy and healthy holidays, and I'm hoping that all of the Ninth Division men and their families have the same.

Uno Amigo,  
Boni Campos

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**Co. B - 39th Inf.**  
**Albert J. Baccile**

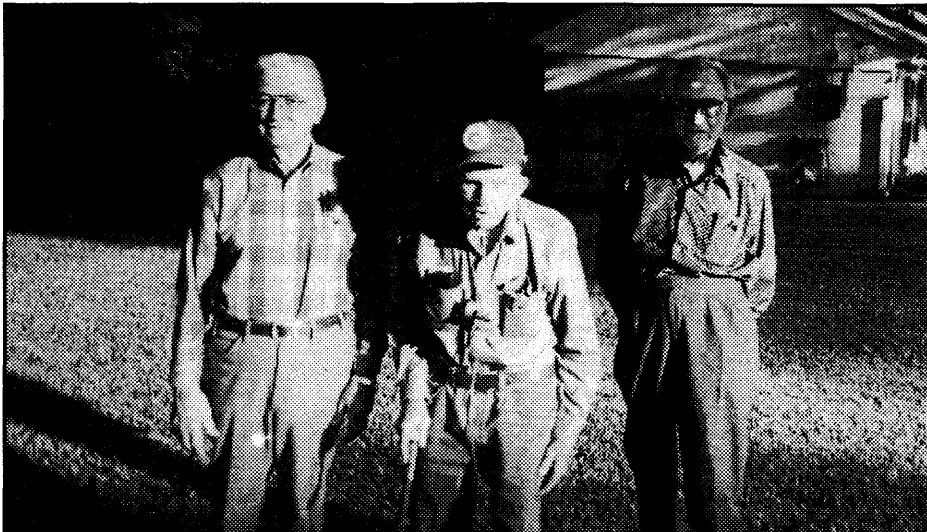
Wow! Does the time fly. Yep, I was 89 on December 26th. Please, no flowers yet. Am getting old and cranky, but still chugging along. Took a trip to Washington last October. The WW II Memorial is beautiful. Hope to make the next reunion

Sending a check for my dues and the rest for my memorable "B" Co. 39th buddies who have passed on. Hope you are still enjoying good health. Thanks for all the hard work you and the others are doing to keep the 9th Div. Assn. an on-going tradition.

Wishing you old-fashioned pleasures, happy memories, and every joy of the season.

God bless you and your family.  
Albert Baccile

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**26th FA men Oct. 8, 2004, Waco, TX. Left to right: Capt. James P. Ledbetter HQ BTY C.O.; T/A Emery W. Berghorn, Maintenance section HQ Bty.; Lt. Col. Evert E. Stong, 26th FA, Bn C.O.**

**HQ Bttry. - 26th F.A. Bn. \**  
**Emery W. (Hank) Berghorn**

Enclosed find dues for another year plus something extra for the Association to use as it deems best. In October of 2004 I drove Dad to Oklahoma City where we picked up Evert Stong who commanded the 26th FA following Sicily until early November 1944, when he was called to the War Department in Washington D.C. We continued on to Waco, Texas where we met with James "Pat" Ledbetter who was HQ Battery C.O. after Sicily. Previously he was a forward observer in the battalion.

It was the first time the three men had any contact in nearly sixty years and their time together was entirely too brief. Promises to maintain contact were made. All are in reasonable health and would enjoy hearing from any 26th FA men. I'm enclosing two different exposures of the same photo in hopes that one may be suitable for the OCTOFOIL.

We hope all is good in your family and wish you the best of holidays!  
Claude Berghorn

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**Co. C - 39th Inf.**  
**Roger E. Elmer**

We thought you might find this interesting. Last year, the Northside College Preparatory High School in Chicago assigned the U. S. History class a class project to interview a World War II veteran. Our granddaughter, Lauren, asked her grandfather, Roger Elmer, if he would like to be interviewed. She and her partner came to the house with a set of questions and a video camera and taped the interview.

They each received an A+ on their part of the project. The class hopes it will be able to send the completed set of interviews to the National Library in Washington, DC.

Thanks for keeping the OCTOFOIL going.

Roger and Dorie Elmer

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**Co. A - 15th Engr. Bn.**  
**3rd Platoon, 3rd Squad**

Please find a check for one year's dues and a little extra for the Memorial Fund. It's that time of the year to hear from some of the "Old Buddies". The list gets smaller every year.

It's hard to believe that 62 years have gone by since we spent that first Christmas away from home in Africa.

Writings (scribbling) is bad. I better quit.

Yours truly,  
Ed Rickert

\*\*\*\*\*

**SEEKING**  
**Co. C - 60th Inf.**  
**William G. Sauers**

I would like my father's name entered in your register as a memorial member.

S/Sgt. William L. Sauers, Co. C - 60th Infantry

Killed in Action 16 March 1945 at Notscheid, Germany

Entered Service: 3 July 1941 at Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio

If any men from Co. C remember my father from the time that he joined the company in October 1944 up to the day that he fell, please get in touch with me. It will be greatly appreciated.

I received my associate membership card the other day. It is with great pride, honor and respect to know that I am associated with men that value my father's sacrifice.

The last six months have certainly been an education for me. Being able to learn and understand so much about my father's combat experiences and those of men like you have been very humbling. Be assured that I will continue my efforts to learn more and pass this on to my children.

Respectively,  
William G. Sauers

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**Co. K - 47th Inf.**  
**Joe Killacky**

(First Letter of Aug. 2, 2004, included a two page spread on the Society of the First Division as it appeared in the Chicago Tribune)

The "Big Red One" had their annual reunion in Chicago last week. Shows what can be done when a big newspaper millionaire got behind it with plenty of money and publicity. For me, it just shows how much all the 9th guys should appreciate what Dan and you and all the past officers of the Assn have been able to do with such limited means. Thanks again for all your hard work.

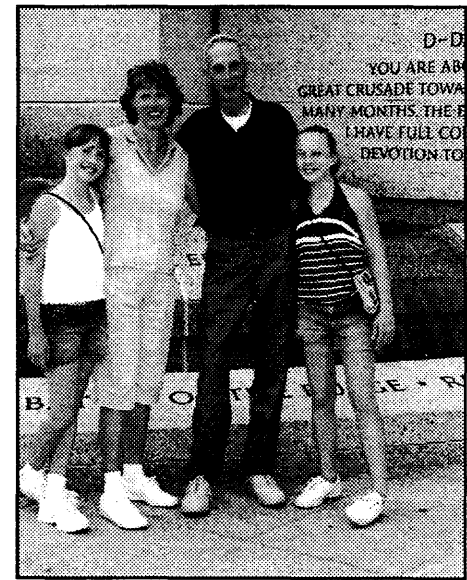
(Second Letter)

Hi, I just completed a move from Lemont to Naperville, IL. My Daughter is here, only seven miles away. I'm now in a real nice Senior Apartment that has just about everything an old Infantryman could hope for, A beautiful area with parks and high school and college playing fields a stones throw away.

Enclosed is a picture of my August trip to DC - Hope to go back with the 9th in '05. Our October and November have been great here, plenty of sun. Now I can take whatever comes in December, January and February.

My best to you and yours for a nice holiday season.

Merry Christmas  
Joe Killacky



**Joe Killacky (K-47) at WW II Memorial site in Washington, DC with daughter, Mary Catherine Gregory and granddaughters Julie (left) and Sarah (right), August 2004.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**B - 60th Inf.**  
**John Celler**

Enclosed please find dues for the next three years. I would like to thank you for the good things you are doing in keeping the OCTOFOIL still flying.

I would like to wish all the members the best for the Holidays and may the new year be a healthy and happy one.

John Celler

\*\*\*\*\*

MAIL CALL

(Continued from Page 7)

Co. B - 47th Inf.

[Redacted]

(Nov. - May)

Thank you for sending me a copy of the OCTOFOIL. It took a little longer to arrive, because it was forwarded from FL to NJ where we spend the summer months.

I have been trying for some time to get information about the 9th Division; specifically co. B, 47th Infantry.

Since my letter appeared in the WWII Memorial newsletter, I have received seven letters and a phone call from Texas. I only knew the original inductees who started training at Fort Bragg in January of 1941.

After several months at Bragg I was sent to Fort Benning, GA where I graduated from Communications School. We heard the 9th was preparing to ship out and I expected to rejoin my unit. Instead I was assigned to a MP unit in Fort Barrancas, FL. Most of my time was spent in the MPs, landing in Normandy several days after D-Day.

After attending Infantry OCS in Fontainebleau, France, I graduated a 2nd Lt. expecting to join the forces in the Battle of the Bulge. At that point the war ended in Europe. We were prepared for the CBI, but before we left France, that war ended.

Despite the fact that my time in the 9th was brief, my memories of those relationships still remain. as Phyllis Dick said in her note, "There is a common bond among all from the 9th." As a result of receiving the OCTOFOIL, I sent a note to Mrs. Mastrangelo whose husband was one of my buddies. I have since received a nice note from her.

At present I am in the Retired Reserve with a rank of Capt. Enclosed is my check for a three year membership.

Many thanks again,  
Bill

\*\*\*\*\*

Co. M - 60th Inf.

Ms. Ann Elichko

[Redacted]

First of all I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a good New Year. I received the OCTOFOIL yesterday, December 1st, and was happy to see the picture of the Reunion at Philadelphia. The year was 1978 and how I remember was my dear husband John Elichko used our new car, and George Brumm left his car for me to use while they were gone. I had just gotten my Drivers license in 1976.

In the picture, stooping from the left is John, now departed three years ago and I sure miss him. The next one is a man from Phillipsburg, NJ, and then George Brumm. He passed away five weeks after my husband and is buried three rows from John at Doyles Veterans Cemetery in Arneytown.

John sure liked all the reunions he could make and always enjoyed the OCTOFOIL. I'm sorry I won't be able to make the reunion in DC as my lower back and my hip is bad. I get around here but traveling and riding bothers me very much.

Also enclosed is a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of my Dear Husband John Elichko. I hope I'm sending this to the right person.

God bless you all,  
Sincerely,  
Ann Elichko

\*\*\*\*\*

(Editor's Note: The lady is correct. The year was 1978. Of the 19 men in the picture, she identified three. Others to be found include John Sabato, Dan Quinn, Walter O'Keefe, Adolph Wadalavage, Arthur Schmidt, Domenick Meile, "Guggie", Frank Fazio, Eddie Egan, and two men named Russo. That leaves five to be identified. How say you? Who can help?)

\*\*\*\*\*

SEEKING

Co. D - 47th Inf.

Donato N. Iacobucci

[Redacted]

Enclosed is a check for three years dues. My last record shows I'm paid for 2002-2003-2004. This is the first time I ever sent dues to anyone but Dan Quinn. My wife and I have attended many reunions, but due to her and my illnesses the last few years we've been unable to attend.

Thank you, God bless and good luck.  
Donato

\*\*\*\*\*

Co. A - 47th Inf

Kaye Olsen

[Redacted]

My uncle, S/Sgt. Lewis J. (Louie) Annear of Richland Center, Wisconsin was a member of Co. A, 47th Infantry. He had served as a squad leader in Tunisia, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for gallantry, and through the Sicily campaign before going to England to prepare for the Normandy invasion.

However, on July 11, 1944 while leading his squad, Louie was killed in action at the La Caplainerie crossroad near St. Lo as they came under a panzer attack. He was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Although initially buried in Ste-Mere-Eglise Military Cemetery No.2, Louie now rests in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

In 2000, I had the opportunity to go through Louie's personal effects, which then resulted in a year of research on the 47th Infantry and a trip to Normandy with my spouse to follow his footsteps. We started at Utah Beach and completed Louie's route, then studied the Normandy war museums and monuments. At the American Cemetery above Omaha Beach, the Superintendent at the visitor's building played "Taps" for Louie while presenting me with worn French and American flags- all a memorable event.

My spouse and I would like to connect with veterans from the 1st Bn, 47th Infantry; Co. A if possible. Thanks for keeping alive the sacrifice of the 9th Infantry Division veterans and those no longer with us.

Kaye Olson for Lewis J. Annear

CHAPTER NEWS

(Continued from Page 6)

Bay and part of the Gulf of Mexico. On Thursday evening, the veterans of the 9th Infantry Division were honored with a standing ovation by the patrons prior to the start of the theatre show "Chicago." The Theatre Manager read a synopsis of the 9th Division's role in WWII written by Emil De Donato.

The Men's and Women's Auxiliary Meetings were held on Friday morning. Highlights of the men's meeting were: Same slate of officers elected to serve for another year. Marty Gross read a fax outlining the details of the National 2005 Reunion in Washington, D.C. suggested locations for the 2005 Florida Chapter Reunion were St. Augustine, Orlando and a repeat to come back to Sarasota.

The Saturday night banquet dinner was held at Cafe Italia. An entire section was reserved for this occasion. The Italian owners rolled out the red carpet by serving us delicious food...drinks...plus a special home made Italian dessert platter...coupled with a sincere Italian welcome by their entire family.

The Hospitality Room was well stacked with snacks, drinks and other goodies. Displays consisting of "Flip-over" pages of WWII, photos, write-ups, etc. were set up in the hallway just outside of the Hospitality Room. Many hotel guests took the time out to view and ask questions regarding our role in WWII.

For those Chapter members who for whatever reason could not attend the 2004, plan on coming to our next one in 2005 as the saying goes: "It's later than you think" so enjoy while you can.

Norris Gray (aka) Chief Gray at NASA

Many Florida Chapter members who met and spoke with Norris Gray at our Chapter Reunions, will readily agree that he held an important job at NASA at Cape Canaveral.

It all started back in 1995 when Norris went to work for the Federal Government at Mac Dill Air Force in Florida. He was transferred to Anniston Ordnance Depot, Alabama in 1946. Three years later, he was sent to the Joint Long Range Proving Ground (now Patrick Air Force Base) and then to Cape Canaveral Missile Annex as Fire Chief and Emergency Preparedness Officer. As Chief, it was his responsibility to respond and direct investigative action as quickly as possible to any shuttle mishap, no matter where on this planet it happens. In 1963 Chief Gray joined NASA as the Fire Protection/Safety and Rescue Officer. He became involved in early missile development during the Orbiter design reviews. A short time later, he became Subsystem Manager for the Space Shuttle Program. Chief Gray retired in 1984 and has served as President of the NASA Alumni League and Board of Directors.

The Florida Chapter Officers and members are proud to have Norris as an active member of our Chapter especially that he was part of the team that put a man on the moon and returned them safely back to earth.

News Wanted: Florida Chapter members are urged to send news to: Emil J. De Donato, [Redacted]

THE OCTOFOIL

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