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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, March/April 2005

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 LX Number 2

Mar.- Apr., 2005

THE WORLD WAR II REGISTRY OF REMEMBRANCES

There is a small group of us 9th Infantry Division researchers, and devoted family members, who are dedicated to keeping the memories of our loved ones and the 9th Infantry Division alive.

Our readers of "The Octofoil" should know that the WWII Memorial in DC is not only for those who died . . it is for ALL veterans of WWII. We want every vet, or surviving family members, to complete the paper work to join the Registry of Remembrances (it is free) to make sure your service to our country is honored. William Sauers (son of a soldier KIA) and, hopefully, Gail Eisenhower, (daughter of a soldier KIA) will get permission from the reunion committee to set up a table at the 60th Reunion to sign up as many of the 9th as possible. I can not think of a better way to show our pride in the 9th and hope you agree.

"SEEKING" LETTERS DO PRODUCE RESULTS

On another note, I want to gratefully thank you for putting my letter in your paper in my search for anyone who may have served with our deeply missed, "Uncle Eddie". That letter elicited a response from John Celler, formerly of Co. B, 60th; a man I absolutely adore, who joined the company as a replacement 3 days prior to Uncle Eddie's wounding and though he did not know the Captain or see him during those horrific days he hooked me up with another former Captain, Grady Holman, who then provided me with a list of those who survived who may have known Captain Weiss. Through that short list of 4 names I was able to find a former Sgt., Robert Fisher, who not only served with Uncle Eddie but is pretty certain that he recalls the where and when of Captain Weiss' severe wounding and was able to confirm information that had only been family lore up until now (thanks to a lack of personnel records resulting from the St. Louis fire in 1973) and truly give us some peace and understanding of the circumstances of his death. So, to give credit where credit is due . . . it all started with you and I am eternally thankful!!! All I can say is repeat the often said, "War is Hell" and that each and every one of you is a true HERO . . Thank you . . . thank you.

Last, thanks to the combined research efforts of our little group, I've contracted with a pre-med student in Mississippi to scan all of our 9th Infantry Division, formerly classified, documents from the National Archives, among other sources, onto CD's to offer all 9th Division researchers/ family members. Hopefully, this process will be complete by the time of the reunion and I understand the CD's will hold up to 1,000 pages that can be downloaded and printed. I am keeping my fingers crossed about this but am hoping for the best.

So, I am sending my deepest gratitude to you for all that you have done and continue to do.

Sending Aloha (Love) to all of you.

Lisa Froug-Hirano

"Lest We Forget"

Please join "The Friends of Father Conners" as
We return to Worcester to pay our respects to our dead
at the ten o'clock Mass at the
Church of the Immaculate Conception
on Sunday, October 23, 2005
(Full details will be posted in the next issue of the Octofoil)

President's Message

by Bill Robey

All seems to be ready for the reunion in September, and we now have, as of April 11, 131 rooms reserved. This adds up to a total of 256 people. I haven't broken it down to how many of the Association, spouses, or children and grandchildren. However, the Sons and Daughters group looks as if it might total as many as 60 for this reunion.

The deadline for reservations was April 1. Some of you have overlooked or forgotten about the deadline, and I am still getting reservations in the mail. I am not going to turn anyone down as long as we have rooms. We blocked 150 rooms and having used 131, we don't have many left. If we go over the blocked number, those who are late MAY have to pay full rate for the hotel rooms. Get your reservation in right away, as it is always easier to cancel a reservation than to find a room at the last minute. If you need to change something about your reservation, please do so as soon as possible. For instance, if you need to change from a single to a double room, or some other change, we need to know as soon as you can let us know.

The plans for the various events are taking shape as well, and we should have a real party this time around. We have chartered 6 buses to take us to the WW II Memorial and to Arlington Cemetery. Just how we will load the busses is not decided yet, but most likely, we will assign a bus number when you register at the reunion. Three of the buses will have wheelchair lifts and so those of you who are using wheelchairs, either electric or hand pushed, will be able to go to the memorial and to the cemetery without any problems.

There will be a program given to each person in the registration packet that you will get when you register. Also, in that packet will be a baseball cap for each member of the Association. There will be extra caps for sale also. We are planning to include in the program a list of names and addresses of all those attending the reunion. Also, there will be name tags for each individual. There will be some kind of emblem on the name tag to show which events you have registered and paid for. Please take time to check your name tag when you get it to make sure everything is alright. Changes can be made right at the registration desk if necessary.

There will be some leeway about registering for individual events at the last minute. The hotel can accommodate a few extras at each function, but even there we are limited. If someone wants to come in to attend just a couple of events, we can take care of that, but as I said, there will be limits. Get your reservations in for anything and everything as soon as possible.

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE FOR FINAL PAYMEN IS AUGUST 1, 2005

There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule. If your final payment is not in by 1 August, then your reservation will be cancelled and your deposit refunded. The hotel is requiring payments on a very strict schedule, and we must have the money in hand before we can make any payment to avoid violating our contract. We do not want to have to chase someone for several months after the reunion to collect money that should have been paid before the reunion. Make sure your final payment is in the hands of the reunion committee BEFORE 1 August 2005.

Joe Killen says that I have written more about this reunion than any other President has in the past. I hope that by writing this much I have helped clear up any problems that may arise. Please continue to read everything, and don't assume something just because you read the first few sentences. If you have any questions, call me at either [REDACTED] or toll free at 1-866-229-2377, Pin # 3322, and I will be happy to answer any questions.

If you have anything that you would like to put on display, bring it with you. We will have tables in the registration room for displays, and easels with cork or foam boards to display pictures. This room can be locked up at night so we do not have to move everything out until Sunday night.

There will be one more Octofoil before the reunion, so that anything left out in this story will be covered in that issue. As I have said many times before, "More Later."

Bill Robey, 15th Engr, President

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
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Fairview, TX
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Philadelphia, PA
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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 [Redacted]

Volume LX Number 2

March-April, 2005

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 9th 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:

Greater New York Michigan

Illinois Florida

Texas and the Greater South West

60TH 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
"60th 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 9th 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.

9th Infantry Division Association Room Reservations

Arrival Date _____ Departure date _____

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest _____

9th 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.

Accomodations: 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 H. Maloney** in memory of all of the deceased buddies of the Ninth Infantry Division.
- Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Jones** in memory of **Val Gregurich**, wife of “Jake”, of the 9th Q. M. Co.
- Mrs. Antoinette Mastrangelo** in memory of her beloved husband, **Peter Mastrangelo**, of Company B - 47th Infantry.
- John Bonkowski** in memory of **James M. Egan**, 9th Recon.
- George H. Brown** in memory of **Walter O’Keeffe** and **Tom Boyle**.
- Everett N. Tapp** in memory of Valerie, wife of **Jake Gregurich** of the 9th Q. M. Co.
- Mrs. Alice Haines** in memory of **Sam Robinson** and her husband, **Frank W. Haines** both of the 84th Field Artillery Bn.
- Emil Langer** in memory of his cousin, **Mrs. Bertha Gebbia**.
- Herbert Taff** in memory of all the heroes and gallant men of Co. L - 39th Infantry.
- Gregory E. White** in special memory of his Dad, **Selby E. White** of Battery C - 34th F. A. Bn.
- Edward G. Janosik** in memory of 1st Sgt. **Steve Blyshak**, Co. G - 47th Inf., KIA at St. Lo.
- Nancy E. Miles** in loving memory of her Uncle, **William A. Estabrooks**, 709th Ord. Co.
- John Bonkowski** in memory of **LTC Matt Urban**, 60th Infantry.

OBITUARY

Stephen “Steve” G. URBANYI
Born Oct. 1, 1920 - Died April 15, 2005

Born in the Birmingham neighborhood of Toledo, Ohio, Steve was the son of Hungarian immigrants. Steve attended St. Stephen’s grade school and graduated from Waite High School. He was drafted into the Army in July 1942 and placed with good companions in Company B, 60th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division. He fought in campaigns in Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily and Normandy. Steve received disabling injuries in Normandy, and after a prolonged hospital stay, was honorably discharged in 1946. Steve received the Purple Heart Medal, the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge to go with his other medals to show for his sacrifice. He worked for the United States Postal Service from 1948 until 1978, ending his career as a claims investigator.

He was an avid World War II history buff and a great fan of the Boston Celtics. Steve loved to travel taking frequent trips with his family or good friends, Joseph Vass, Stanley Godlewski, Ray Wolf or Al Beasley, whom he wishes well. Surviving are his two daughters, April A. Robinette and Kathleen A. Camp, and five grandchildren plus many nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by both family and friends.

Burial will be held at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery. The family suggests memorials to the Disabled American Veterans fund, the WWII memorial fund or to a charity of the donor’s choice. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. April Robinette,

Submitted by Floyd Hennessey, 9th Q. M. Co. and Michigan Chapter.

Battery C - 34th F. A. Bn.
Gregory E. White

I am writing to inform you of the death of my Dad, Selby E. White. Dad died on November 9th, 2003 after a brief battle with Lymphoma at an age of 83 years. His OCTOFOIL found me through the forwarding address. Dad served in Battery C of the 34th Field Artillery Battalion and was involved in campaigns in Africa, Sicily, Normandy, France, Belgium and Rhineland.

He often spoke of the years he spent away from home during WWII and the many friends and good times he had. He was proud of his service to the country in a quiet and unassuming way. When he would receive his copy of the OCTOFOIL, it would bring back a flood of memories. He spoke of landing at Casablanca on Christmas Eve, of picking and cracking open almonds on the gun turret of the half-track he was driving in Sicily, of hunting in France and Belgium and of how pretty the French women were. Somewhere mixed into all of this was a war but most of the memories he shared were lighthearted.

Dad and Mom attended the reunion at Fayetteville, NC in June of 1993 and were both moved by the opportunity to renew some old friendships and make new ones. General Westmoreland attended this one as well and Dad was very pleased to see and speak with his old Battalion Commander.

(Continued on Page 4)

LADIES CORNER

Dear Auxiliary Members,

I finally have an answer about our luncheon at the reunion. It will be after we return from the Memorial Services and visit at the Cemetery. It will be in the restaurant at the hotel, and will be cup of soup, one-half sandwich and a beverage. Hot tea, coffee, iced tea or Pepsi product. The cost is \$12.00 which includes tax and gratuity. The meeting room is next door to the restaurant.

I must turn in the amount of ladies attending the luncheon by the end of August, so if you will be joining us please send a check to me for \$12.00. The meeting will follow the luncheon. Don’t forget your Pollyanna gift for the meeting.

Talking to Bill Robey the other day, he said they already have over 120 rooms filled so if you have not sent in your deposit better do it now. We want this 60th Reunion to be a big event. If this is the last Octofoil before the reunion (editor’s note: IT ISN’T) mark your calendar and send me your check now. Good health to all and see you in September.

Sincerely,
Jean Geary, Ladies Auxiliary President

JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

He was getting old and paunchy, and his hair was falling fast
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of his past.
Of a war that he had fought in, and deeds that he had done
In his exploits with his buddies - they were heroes, every one
And though sometimes to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we’ll hear his tales no longer, for old Tom has passed away,
And the world’s a little poorer, for a soldier died today.
He was just a common soldier, and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.
for when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier’s part
Is to clean up all the troubles that others often start.
If we cannot give him honor while he’s here to hear the praise,
Then at least let’s give him homage, at the ending of his days.
Perhaps a simple notice in a paper that would say,
“Our country is in mourning, ‘cause a Soldier passed away”.

ANONYMOUS

In Memoiram

Co. C - 60th Inf.
Mrs. Lucille M. Gale

My husband, Morris G. Gale, was in Company C, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Morry passed away on February 17, 2005. He so enjoyed The OCTOFOIL.

Since you have assisted me in the past, I am writing to request your assistance again.

Please let me know if Morry’s membership dues are current.

I would like to continue his membership through 2006, and to continue to receive The OCTOFOIL.

I would like Morry’s name included in the “Taps Sounded” section of The OCTOFOIL.

I deeply appreciate your assistance. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 651 - 770 - 1071.

Sincerely,
Lucille M. Gale

Co. C - 47th Inf.
Patricia Langley Crane

This is to inform you of the passing of my father, Wilson E. Langley on December 14, 2004 - - just 3 weeks prior to his 92nd birthday. I think he was in Co. C of the 47th Infantry.

If anyone remembers serving with my father, I would very much appreciate hearing from you. God’s Blessings on all veterans.

Sincerely,
Patricia Langley Crane

Wilson E. Langley

Wilson E. Langley was born on Jan. 8, 1913 near Essex and died on Dec. 14, 2004 at Dexter, at the age of 91. Mr. Langley received a B.S. from Southeast Missouri State University in education and a masters degree from the University of Michigan with honors.

His early career was in education, serving as a teacher, coach and a superintendent. Mr. Langley was also a landowner and farmer near Essex. During

(Continued on Page 4)

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

Kenneth B. Bartlett Co. C - 47th Inf.	Warren D. Evans Co. A - 47th Inf.
Selby E. White Battery C - 34th F. A. Bn.	Stephen "Steve" Urbanyi Co. B - 60th Inf.
Morris G. Gale Co. C - 60th Inf.	Patrick Jerome 9th Inf. Division
Robert W. Schoenekase 9th Inf. Division	Wilson E. Langley Co. C - 47th Inf.
Albert Bruchac 3rd Bn. -60th Inf. EXO	Arthur C. Coulon Co. C - 39th Inf.
Mrs. Bertha Gebbia Cousin of Emil Langer Co. A - 47th Inf.	Mrs. Valerie Gregurich Wife of Jake Gregurich 9th Quartermaster Co.
William A. Estabrooks 709th Ordinance Co.	Earl Wilkey Co. F - 47th Inf.
Joseph Youorski Anti-Tank Co. - 60th Inf.	

In Memoriam (Continued from Page 3)

World War II, Mr. Langley served in the Army as a First Lieutenant with the 47th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division in the North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central European Campaigns. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his heroic actions in Germany. In addition, he also was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Presidential Unit Citation. He was also recognized by the Belgium government for his service.

This lifelong resident of Essex had been a life-member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association as well as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Masonic Lodge and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Survivors include a daughter, Pat Crane of Essex; a brother, R. G. Langley; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was laid to rest with honors in the Essex, MO Cemetery.

9th Q. M. Company
Trevor E. Jones

Enclosed is a token for the Memorial Fund in memory of Mrs. Val Gregurich, wife of "Jake" from the 9th Q. M. Company.

Val and Jake met in Eupen, Belgium, when we were staying out of the weather in one of the factories there in 1944. She was great fun at the reunions they attended.

We are looking forward to the DC reunion. Please excuse the hen scratching.

Your buddy,
Trevor

9th Q. M. Company
Everett N. Tapp

Enclosed is a check for the Memorial Fund in memory of Valerie Gregurich, who passed away on March 19th,2005 at home, while sleeping in her chair. Valerie met Jake in Eupen, Belgium, and they were married there before Jake returned home. Although they lived in Missouri, they were Michigan Chapter members and enjoyed the Michigan Chapter affairs and the National reunions. Valerie was 79 and leaves behind her loving husband, Jake, 87 years of age, and their seven children; three daughters and four sons.

Condolences may be sent to: Jake Gregurich,

I spoke to Jake by phone last evening for about 45 minutes and he seemed to be doing OK and in good spirit. Jake and I went through North Africa, Sicily and of course Normandy together.

Jake, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Respectfully submitted by Everett N. Tapp for the Michigan Chapter and the "Group".

THE SOLDIER'S REWARD

I've often been told that grown men don't cry,
But I've walked the hallowed path where the body bags lie
To wipe out this sight took a long, long time
For one of those bodies could well have been mine.

So I've gone on through life, my heart filled with sorrow
Telling myself, "It'll be better tomorrow".
Time marches on and death takes my friends
Each day that goes bye brings me closer to the end

When that end is near, what I've sown I will reap
My greatest reward will be that I'll die in my sleep.
In the funeral home they'll cherish my name
As the pastor relates my ten minutes of fame.

Then off to a burial in a two by eight plot
Taps and a flag in a triangular box.
Soon after the service all memories fade
No call to duty for all debts are paid,

No more sacrifices, no earthly home
Like all veterans before me, just a name on a stone.

OBITUARY (Continued from Page 3)

The enclosed check is for the Association's Scholarship Fund in the name and memory of Selby E. White.

Sincerely, Gregory E. White

Headquarters Battery - 84th F. A. Bn.
Mrs. Alice Haines

I intended to write you awhile ago but I misplaced the OCTOFOIL ! It finally surfaced, so now I'll send along a letter. I'm enclosing a check which includes a memoriam for dear Sam Robinson who passed away the day before Frank. Also I'm sending to cover a membership for 2005 and mailing expenses for the past year. I very much appreciate receiving the OCTOFOIL and am more than willing to help defray the expense of mailing it.

I want to express my sincere thanks for the memorial given in Frank's name by the Board of Governors. He felt that it was an honor and a big responsibility to serve on the Board.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who assembled the list of Association Reunions and Past Presidents. - - a very impressive resource !

Most sincerely,
Alice Haines

709th Ordinance Co.
Mrs. Nancy E. Miles

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of my Uncle, William A. Estabrooks, who passed on February 17, 2005 after he fell and fractured his hip. An operation was scheduled but he contracted pneumonia plus had several other medical problems.

He was 97 years old and with some help still lived alone and still drove his car. He was truly an amazing man and I will certainly miss him. He was in the 709th Ordinance Co. and told us many stories as he had been in the service for five years.

My husband and I had the pleasure of taking he and my Aunt Lil to a few reunions and he certainly had a great time there, and so did we! He always looked forward to the OCTOFOIL. Hope you can continue as time goes bye.

Thanks for all your work and keeping us free.

Sincerely,
Nancy Miles

Anti-Tank Co. - 60th Inf.
Judith Youorski Parker

I am sorry to inform you of the death of my father, Joseph Youorski, on March 26, 2005. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery on May 26, 2005. Dad was a member of the 60th Infantry Regiment's Anti-Tank Company during World War II. He was a Life-time member of the Association and attended reunions as long as he was able.

You may publish a notice of his death and then, please remove his name from any mailing lists.

Thank you,
Judy Youorski Parker.

CHAPTER NEWS

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

On Friday, March 18, 2005 the NY area Chapter met at the Franklin Square Library on Lincoln Street in Franklin Square, Long Island, after a winter hiatus during January and February. Ten members attended: Joe Charvat, Anton Dietrich, Ed Harris, Ed Leddy, Marv Levy, Joe Killen, Domer Miller, Bill Muldoon, Tony Varone and Al Zenka.

Newly-elected President Ed Leddy called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Leddy read the poignant latest vet directive establishing an empty chair for MIA and POWs and then placed a MIA/POW black draped symbol on the chair back. A Pledge of Allegiance to the flag followed. Chapter Chaplin Joe Killen said a prayer and a moment of silence was observed for our deceased buddies lost in the war and since.

Minutes of the December meeting were read by the Recording Secretary yours truly, and the Financial Report was given by temporary Secretary/Treasurer Al Zenka, who has relinquished those offices to past-president Joe Maiale, who is snow-birding in Florida.

Finding New Members

General business included some correspondence received from Tony DeRobertis and Maurice Houckes. Editor Joe Killen reported that the Octofoil list now includes 1636 names and is still having trouble with postal service delivery of the paper. Surprisingly, he notes, that some new members are being picked up who never knew about the Ninth Infantry Division Association before.

Free Computers From the VA

Ed Harris reported on his VA hospital benefits experience. He has received a free Dell computer from the VA for taking a computer course at the VA facility (23rd St. NYC). If interested, members should check out this VA program at this and other VA facilities. Another fact Harris noted: if you are late for a scheduled medical appointment, the VA must see you the same day, though you may have to wait till other patients have been processed.

Tony Varone suggested that all Chapter members receive a 9th Infantry Division cap, paid for by the Chapter treasury, so that we would display uniformity at our official get-togethers.

Killen announced that Bill Muldoon and Marv Levy celebrated their 80th birthdays recently. After some discussion about the Washington reunion, the meeting was adjourned around 3:00 PM.

Sick Call

Noted on sick call were Dan Quinn, Herminio Suarez, Al Lipton, Joe Rzesniowiecki, Gerry Levinson and Carl Winter. Get well soon, Ninthmen, we miss you.

APRIL 15, 2005 MEETING

On April 15, we met again at the same command post in Franklin Square. Attending were Joe Charvat, Anton Dietrich, Ed Harris, Joe Killen, Ed Leddy, Marv Levy, Domer Miller, Adolph Wadalavage and Al Zenka.

President Leddy led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the MIA/POW display observance. Chaplin Killen read a prayer and a moment of silence was held for our departed comrades. The minutes of the previous meeting and the Financial Report were read and accepted.

Remagen Bridgehead

General discussion was headed by Joe Killen regarding the 9th experience at the Remagen bridge, relating to an inquiry in the Octofoil by a German citizen researching a book on the Remagen battle that he is writing. The writer wishes to contact Ninthmen for their personal experiences.

Killen informed us of Al Bruchac's demise. Al had been one of the original stalwarts of the 9th Association, was a frequent attending member of the NY Chapter until he moved to the Baltimore area. Our sincerest condolences to his family.

Zenka estimated there are about 180 members in the Greater New York Area Chapter. Killen stated that he phoned Jack Holuboff, a Brooklynite, who has not attended a meeting in years. He sends his regards to the Chapter, which is too far for him to attend meetings. Killen also was in touch with Mike Gatto and Charlie LiBretto (Texas) - - also a little too far to attend our meetings.

Ed Harris gave us the latest info on the free VA computer course which is available to veterans at the VA facility in NYC. The program may be overbooked, but if you can't get into the program with one group, try getting in with another group. Be persistent!

Our sick call list is still the same as noted above but now includes Tony Varone who is still battling the gout.

Annual Pinelawn Memorial Service

Our next meeting will be held following the Annual Memorial Service at the VA National Cemetery, on Wellwood Avenue, Farmingdale, Long Island on Saturday, May 21. It is also Armed Forces Day. We will gather in the parking lot at 10:00AM and march to the main flag pole where we will hold our service. Afterwards we will move to the community room, which is located behind the Administrative offices in the same building, for a short meeting. Following the meeting, we will proceed to nearby Liberty 110 Diner on Route 110 for a chapter paid-for lunch. Members, spouses, family and friends are all invited to join us for these ceremonies.

Spring is here, Ninthmen - - a time of renewal - - for DUES!

If your dues are not paid it is \$10.00 for one year, \$25.00 for 3 years and \$75.00 Lifetime Membership. Make checks payable to "9th Inf. Div. Assn., Greater NY Chapter". Send to Secretary/Treasurer Joe Maiale, 906 3rd Avenue, Franklin Square, NY 11010.

Marv Levy

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The Florida Chapter Reunion Committee consisting of Emil De Donato, Chairman, Audrey De Donato, Paul and Eunice Crumb as committee members have signed a contract to hold the Florida Chapter Reunion on November 2, 3, & 4 at the Holiday Inn in Silver Springs, FL. The hotel has 103 newly renovated guest rooms with King or Double beds. A 24 hour DENNY's RESTAURANT is located on the premises.

Plans have been made to cross the road and visit the Silver Springs Nature's Theme Park and the 12 different attractions on Thursday, November 3rd. Besides the World Famous Glass Bottom Boats, the park features a tram ride, river cruises, animal shows and displays among other rides for the adventurous. The park is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM and between 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 hours should be allowed to enjoy all of the attractions.

DUES REMINDER: Notices have been sent to all members whose dues expired on April 1, 2005. In order to receive the discount package deals to the November 2005 Florida Chapter Reunion, you must be a "Paid-up" dues member. If you need information regarding your status do not hesitate to contact Emil De Donato at (352) 489 - 4070.

ARTHUR COULON: Ralph Williams reported that Art Coulon died March 30, 2005. Art chose to be cremated. He was pre-deceased by his wife who died in August 2001. Art served in Company C - 39th Inf. He chaired the Florida Chapter Reunion in 2003 that was held in Port St. Lucie, FL. The cause of death was not given.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

Lila Stansell: On March 6, H. F. and Lila left their Ormond Beach home to attend the funeral of Lila's older brother, Norman Carroll. They arrived at the hospital in Rome, GA the following day, then attended the funeral services in the deceased's home town of Center, AL. Mr. Carroll was laid to rest in nearby Leesburg, AL. Lila and H.F. remained in Georgia for a week before returning home. Our condolences go out to Lila on the loss of her beloved brother. H. F. and Lila have been fully occupied repairing the damages to their property caused by the hurricanes of last season.

Audrey De Donato: On March 4th, Audrey entered the Seven Rivers Hospital in Crystal River for surgery to remove an inflamed gall bladder problem. The surgery was completed successfully and Audrey was released the following day. After 5 days of home recovery, Audrey has resumed her normal routine. Our thanks go out to the wonderful hands of the Surgeon, the care at the hospital and the guidance of our Good Lord.

Elna "Ellie" Bongiorno: Recently Ellie had a cataract removed from her left eye and the surgery was a success. So much so, the vision was improved in the right eye, which had a procedure done several years previous without perfect results. The Bongornos plan to attend the Florida Chapter Reunion in November. We look forward to having them join us this year as they were unable to attend several of our past reunions due to health problems.

NEWS WANTED: Chapter members are urged to send news of interest to Emil De Donato, 3650 S W Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34432 or Phone: (352) 489 - 4070. The Florida Chapter News letter is your medium to let others know the happening that is going on among our membership. . . Please use it. Emil J. De Donato

MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

Enclosed is the article for the OCTOFOIL that should have been in the last envelope that I sent you. the only thing I can think would have happened was that I was stuffing newsletters at the same time and the article went into the wrong envelope.

But I can explain the delay in the checks getting to you. I live in the country on a very well traveled road. The traffic is sailing past the house. The Postmaster allowed Ed to put our mailbox on our side of the road for safety's sake. Our box is the only one on this side of the road. A house is being built across the road from us. The first thing they did was put up a mailbox without a number on it. When a substitute mail carrier was on the route, he thought that box was our box and left the mail in it. The mail sat there for weeks at a time. I didn't know until I called the post office because I was missing mail. The problem should be solved because the people across the road have moved into their house.

Even though it is late, you may as well use the article in the next OCTOFOIL, since there is no news to report at this time.

The Chapter News

Thirty people attended our Christmas dinner at the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn. Elmer Wagner, Tom and Ruth Walton, Everett Tapp, Marilyn Martin, Mary Doering, George and Somonne Bartley, Lucile and Susan Andrews, Floyd Hennessey, Jim Dawson, Jenette Williams, Harry and Blondine Sager, James and Wylodean Overton, Ruth Feole, Erik and Kaye Olson, John and Rose Bonkowski, Clyde and Ann La Brenz, Lynn and Stella Bowers, Don and Bobbi Sedestrom, and Ed, Jr. and Margaret Wisniewski.

Kaye Olson and her husband Erik attended our Chapter meeting for the first time. Her uncle was S/Sgt. Lewis J. Annear of Co. A, 47th Inf. He was a Fort Bragg, North Africa and Sicily veteran and was killed near St. Lo, France. She and her husband visited Normandy in May 2001 and found the village where her uncle was killed on July 11, 1944.

Also first time attendees were James and Wylodean Overton, Co I, 39th Inf.

Following a family style chicken dinner, President Jim Dawson conducted the business meeting. The Michigan Chapter officers elected for 2005 are:

(Continued on Page 7)

SOUND OFF

Co. K - 60th Inf.
Leo C. "Pat" Williamson



I don't know Col. Wessmiller but I'm sure that he is a fine officer. I'm just trying to keep the record straight. I've got a few names that that I feel should be added to his list for historical purposes.

- 1. Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig, C G of the 9th Infantry Division.
- 2. Lt. Col. Keene Norwood Wilson, CO of the 3rd Battalion - 60th Infantry.
- 3. Lt. Col. Quentin R. "Hardtack" Hardage, C O of 2nd Battalion - 60th Inf.

He loved war and was a good friend, this holder of the Purple Heart with Twelve Clusters (see ESTV page 217) and many other bravery badges.

K Company - 60th Inf. had it's fair share of great fighting men as did many companies. To name a few:- Harold Sprangle, from Sgt. to Lt. (WIA.)

John Eisenhower, from Sgt. to Lt. (MIA, later declared KIA,)
Anton "Frenchy" Thibodaux, from Pvt. to Master. Sgt.

Ray Ice

Sgt. Larson

Etc. and Etc. There were many more but I can't recall the names.

We all who lived through and were their companions know them.

"Words are but wind. Put it in writing and forever preserve it for Posterity."

The ATTACK and OCCUPATION of BARNEVILLE and CARTERET.

Maj. Gen. Eddy gave the order he got from Gen. Collins, who was asked by Gen. Bradley, to cut the Cotentin Peninsula. I was commanding Company I at the time and was asleep in a fox-hole when General Eddy, along with Col. de Rohan, the Regiment commander, and Capt. Keene Wilson, the 3rd Battalion commander, came over and woke me up. General Eddy then gave me the order to go cut the Peninsula.

I asked Capt. Wilson if I could use K Company because I had only been in I Company for 3 days. I had been in K Company from Tunisia, and had been a Platoon Leader of the 2nd and 3rd and Weapons Platoons. So I knew the soldiers, - I trained them, fought with them in combat and knew their moves. I told "Slick" Wilson that I really didn't want to go six miles into unknown country with my limited knowledge of the I Company troops. He agreed. I got a platoon of tanks, a platoon of tank destroyers, and a bunch of other stuff as I recall that I had forgotten about. And with K Co., we got it done.

We hit the beach just South of BARNEVILLE and waited for day light to take the town, plus 87 prisoners from the German army. The next morning, June 18, General Eddy showed up with his Aide-de-Camp. He walked up to me and handed me a set of Captain's bars and read a citation for a Distinguished Service Cross. I asked the General to give K Company a Presidential Unit Citation instead of giving me a DSC.

Keene Wilson got a Major's leaf and stayed in the 3rd Bn. until the war was over. He became a Lt. Col. about three days later.

There is a big black marble monument in front of the BARNEVILLE City Hall with my picture on it to commemorate the occasion of the town's liberation. By the way, I was 22 years old at the time and became a Lt. Col. at age 25 and 6 months as commander of 1st Bn. - 60th. I got shot and went to Oxford, England on a litter. I was there for 2 and 1/2 months before I returned to again command the 1st Bn. I received a Regular Commission.

That's the Facts.

Leo C. (Pat) Williamson

Lt. Col. U.S.A. (Ret.)



Co. E - 60th Inf.
Samuel Bruno



I am sending you this check of \$25, toward my dues. I lost track of when it was due - sorry. I think this will cover a couple of years - I hope.

I was reading about lots of fellows from the 47th and the 39th. What ever happened to all our buddies in the 60th? I've read very few letters or comments about the guys in the 60th. Another thing that I'm reading about is how many guys are passing away. I know we are all getting on in age but how about telling us all the good things that are happening to us. What we've seen or done - the good deeds and happy events of our lives. who we met or talked to and what is going on in our section of the woods. Let's get this little newspaper of ours to come out of the gloom and put some laughter out and smiles on our faces.

I wrote to you before for some information about some of the fellows that I had the pleasure of serving with and sure would like to hear from some of them. Perhaps they live near-by and we could visit and swap some stories. Looking for or hope to hear from Willard James of Essex, NY; Fred Klapp of Albany, NY; Richard Lumis of East Cleveland, OH; Carl Ostberg of Chicago, IL; and the list goes on. Any news from them would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for listening

Sincerely ,

Samuel Bruno

(Ed's Note: None of the four men mentioned above are currently on our mailing list as members, nor are they listed in the 1990 Association Directory of members compiled by David H. Heller.)

Co. F - 60th Inf.
Donald E. Crass



Enclosed find check for three more years of dues. I sure miss going to the reunions but between myself and my wife it is impossible to travel any great distances. I still enjoy the paper and the latest news on one of the best units of WW II.

I always enjoyed getting together with people I called brothers, and we were like brothers in those days. I am in hope that our younger generation will keep the 9th Division going after we have all gone to "Boot Hill". I often wonder how we managed to keep a sane mind during the winter of 1944-1945, during the Bulge. I guess we were quite tough in those days.

Yours truly,

Donald E. Crass, 60th - Company F.

Co. G - 60th Inf.
Joseph J. Pizzi



Here is my dues for the next three years. Sorry for the delay. Best regards and wishes to all in 2005. I would appreciate it if you could change my middle initial to "J".

Glad to hear that Dan Quinn is back home and Marie oversees his therapy treatments. Have dealt with him since 1948 when Doctor Seslowe signed me up as a member. Keep up your good work.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Pizzi

Ninth Recon

Our Octofoil came a little late but it brought us some great news. Danny Quinn came home to stay and begin his rehab. Everyone would agree that such news was worth waiting for. Now we can't wait to see him up and around again.

It was nice to spot Recon's Fred H. Schroeder's letter. We appreciated his new address and phone number, which enabled us to get in touch. Really enjoyed that chat.

Our ranks are getting thinner with Lt. James M. Egan listed among those Departed Comrades. There was more sad news when Mrs. Dottie Capobianco informed us that "Cappy" fell again at home. This time he suffered severe head injuries and has been in the hospital since March 1st. At the time I wrote this he was in intensive care and in grave condition. Let us all remember him in our prayers and hope for the best. Same with all of our other ailing comrades.

Danny Quinn received a letter from a student in Belgium and forwarded it to our Secretary Joe Killen. Since it pertained to the Ninth Recon, I accepted the challenge to locate anyone who may remember Cpl. Lloyd Davailon. According to the letter, He was in the Battle of the Bulge and wrote to some people over there. He died on August 17, 1996. I don't have any recollection of him but Cappy would have been able to help us on this one had it not been for his misfortune. Lloyd was on Cappy's original roster and had him listed as attending a 1962 Recon Reunion in Ocean City, NJ. Anyone who may remember Cpl. Lloyd Davailon kindly let us know. We'll send you a copy of the student's letter.

Gordon Anderson didn't remember him but he contacted Charlie Neal in Smyrna, TN. What a pleasant surprise to hear from an old buddy that we haven't heard from for a long time! He did remember the Cpl. very well and would write to that student, Cindy Van Wilder, as soon as he received a copy of her letter. We talked for quite a while and I was amazed that at age 88 he had such a keen memory of everything that we talked about. Charlie was in the Recon from Day One in August of 1940 at Fort Bragg. We've always looked up to those Originals with the respect that they deserved.

Rose and I share many nice memories of Charlie and his lovely wife Linda. We had some pleasant times together at some Reunions of long ago. On one occasion we had the pleasure of their hospitality at their home on our way to a Reunion in Atlanta, Georgia. Now due to her illness, they don't get around much anymore. Charlie's last Reunion was at San Antonio, TX, but we missed that one. Taking devoted care of Linda in her illness, he missed that very fine Reunion in Pigeon Forge, TN, so close to his home.

March 4th has been 10 years since Matty Urban passed away, and April 1st was five years since we've dedicated his new monument in Arlington National Cemetery. Time is marching on and we are still waiting for Matty to be honored with a commemorative postage stamp and his gravesite added to the Guided Tour List at Arlington. Can't help wondering where are their priorities?

Our wonderful friends, Henry and Theresa Shimkoski in Worchester called and in their Easter note urged us to join them at the coming Reunion. We have every reason to be there, but I'm not getting any better. We'll regretfully miss this one and everyone there.

Respectfully,

John Bonkowski



MAIL CALL

9th M. P. Platoon
Preston W. Stillings

"The Ludendorff Bridge"

The Ninth Military Police always put three men on a traffic post. If I mention in this account MY TRAF-FIC POST it will be my memory as to what took place. As I mentioned in a letter ten years ago, I had the option of staying on the Remagen side of the bridge or crossing over to Erpel. I chose to go to the other side. It was almost dark as we crossed over, the pontoon bridge on the left side was about half finished.

My traffic post was in front of the Coca-Cola plant. We used the building for our living quarters. I was there ten days. My comrades changed as new recruits came in. The Germans used everything possible to halt the traffic over the Ludendorff and our pontoon bridges. The 88's were plentiful and scattered many drivers from their vehicles. The aircraft overhead was a mixture of ours and theirs. Our anti-aircraft barrage was so intense that many rounds fell on our side of the river.

While we were still in Belgium, I saw the vapor trails of many of the V-2 rockets that were on their way going over to England. The Germans shifted directions and aimed them for the bridge. On March 17th, a V-2 hit nearby in the morning. It seemed that everything moved. I believe that is what finally caused the Ludendorff bridge to collapse that day, the concussion from the V-2 rocket.

I had a Kodak camera that I used from Normandy on to the end of the war. I took pictures of the bridge and of the surrounding area. After the war was over, I was allowed to send the film home. My brother had ten copies of my film made, about eighty shots, and sent them to eight of my fellow M.P.'s. Adolph Wadalavage had or has one set of these photos. I had the negatives until my nieces asked for them.

Ken Hechler's book, "The Bridge at Remagen" covers the history of this event very well. Our Division history, "The Eight Stars to Victory" gives the Ninth good coverage too.

The day that the bridge fell, Adolph Wadalavage and myself went to the East end of the bridge where the engineers had been working. Many had fallen into the river; some were caught at the pontoon bridge. After the bridge fell we moved on to other assignments.

Please forgive my writing; I am ninety years old and the parts are wearing out. Enclosed are my dues for another three years and some for the comrade that forgets.

Sincerely,
Preston W. Stillings

Anti-Tank Company - 47th Inf.
B. V. Randall

Enclosed please find the dues for 3 years, but I don't know which 3 years. I don't know when I paid you last, and the address label doesn't tell me. I have been fighting Leukemia and Chemo after effects.

I was a member of Anti-Tank Company, 47th Regiment, so was in a very early group to cross the Remagen Bridge after the 9th Armored.

After reading "seeking" in the Jan-Feb issue I wrote via e-Mail to Ralf Klodt and summarized my crossing the bridge, and some other paragraphs, one bad, some interesting or humorous. So far he has not replied. Either he was not interested, or is overwhelmed by the responses he received?

Please tell me my dues status, (Ed. note: You are paid thru 2007.)
Bill Randall

Division Headquarters Co.
John Brandi

Sorry but this is the only photo that I have on hand. I have others but "Old Timers Disease" has set in and I can't find the others. Will send them later if I find them.

My wife Nell and I both had open heart surgery at the same time. Nell had a massive stroke and passed away October 26, 2003. We attended a lot of the reunions and made a lot of friends.

When in the service I was in Division Headquarters Company. I was also the Company barber. On the pleasant side of my memories is that all the members of Div. Hdq. had to take their "hats", I mean "Helmets" off to me. General Eddy, General Stroh, and General Westmoreland, Lindsey Nelson, and all the terrific officers and men; including Adolph Wadalavage of the M.P.s. I'll close for now.

Wishing all the best,
John Brandi



*A copy of Arthur Crowe's letter to
Ralf Klodt in Konigswinter,
Germany.*

(No Unit Given)
Arthur L. Crowe, Jr.

I was a member of the Ninth Infantry Division at the Remagen Bridge in 1944. The bridge, of course, was wired to be detonated, and I believe that that was the only remaining bridge across the Rhine River in Germany. My unit was about forty miles from the bridge when we got the electrifying news that a squad from the Ninth Armor Division had gotten across and cut the wires to the detonations. While we didn't talk about it much, it was heavy on all of our minds crossing the Rhine, which of course is the biggest river in Europe. The land was fairly flat on our side, the west side, but on the east side there were cliffs in which the enemy had machine guns and mortars. So assaulting the river in rubber rafts would have been a bloody affair.

I was driving a weapon's carrier at the time and my battery commander told me to get on the track, it was a railroad bridge, and drive until something stopped me - either enemy action, I had an accident, or I ran out of fuel or something. He told me not to stop voluntarily until something else stopped me. So I got on the track and I could feel the rails with my front wheels so that way I could stay on the track. That was the dark-

est night that I ever remember in my life. I was never able to make out the horizon all night long. The next morning at daylight I found that I was across the river.

My job at that time was in what we called the wire section and that was keeping the various units talking to each other by telephone. I was assigned the task of getting a telephone line across the river. I laid some wire on the bridge, but since it was under constant attack from artillery and mortar fire, usually by the time I got the wiring across it, it had already been cut. I had one line that lasted fifteen minutes and that was the longest. I noticed a pretty large conduit, probably five inches in diameter. It went down into the river on each side of the bridge. I had gotten a hacksaw somewhere and I cut this conduit on both sides. Of course, there was no electricity then - there was no electricity anywhere around there, so it was safe to cut it. I then attached one of my telephone lines to two wires on the west side and then I went over and tied to the two wires on the east side and thereby established the first reliable telephone communication across the Rhine River. For this action I was awarded the Bronze Star.

I hope this will be of some help to you, and if there is any other information you can think of, you might write me and I will see if I can get it up. Most of my comrades are now dead, but there are still a few of us around.

Yours very truly,
Arthur Crowe

CHAPTER NEWS

(Continued from Page 5)

President	Jim Dawson	Chaplain	Floyd Hennessey
1st Vice President	Tom Hatton	Adjutant	Elmer Wagner
2nd Vice President	Everett Tapp	Sgt. at Arms	Tom Hatton
Treasurer	Elmer Wagner	Historian	Floyd Hennessey
Secretary	Margaret Wisniewski		

Our member for the National Board of Governors, to replace Elmer Wagner in 2005 at the national reunion, is Jim Dawson, with Elmer Wagner as the alternate.

Mary Doering offered to host our memorial service and summer picnic at her home in Alto, MI on Saturday, July 16, 2005. The annual Christmas dinner party will be Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn.

If your dues are due, please send a check, made out to:

"Michigan Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assn."

To: Margaret Wisniewski, 7576 Gratiot, Columbus, MI 48063.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Wisniewski
Secretary, Michigan Chapter
Ninth Infantry division Association

L-R Mike Belmont, John Brandi, Dominic Greco, ?, sitting Sal Barbagallo at the 27th Reunion on July 28, 1972 in Atlantic City, NJ.

MAIL CALL

(Continued from Page 7)

Co. D -60th Inf.
Wyett H. Colclasure

My apologies for the "Return to Sender". Also, membership may also be expired. To be safe, here is another for 3 years. Noted the death of Paul Clark, Co. D, 60th. I remember him.

This brings me to a bit of early history. I joined Co. D, 60th Inf. 9th September 1940 in tent city. During Autumn to early Spring 1941, served on guard detail while our new barracks were being constructed. 1st Lt. Van Bond joined Co. D as CO in October 1940, promoted to Captain. He later transferred to Regiment. Our next CO was Capt. Gus Guletsky. At that time Co. D exec was 1st Lt. Charlie Fort. I was the next 1st Lt. commanding Mortar Platoon.

Prior to the Carolina maneuvers in 1941, Matt Urban joined us. He commanded one of the machine gun platoons in Co. D, 60th. Therefore at any reunion where we three were present, we had a time together as we felt very close.

Later, I commanded Co. H, 2nd Bn., 60th until April 8, 1943. Ten miles East of Maknassey, Tunisia, I was in the impact area of an artillery barrage and collected 10 fragments. This action resulted in the end of my war. After months in hospitals, I was retired with a disability rating of 60 percent.

Matt was wounded on several occasions before being put out totally. I have visited Matt's grave, and the graves of other friends at Arlington. Many memories have grown dim since 1940. Maybe I will see you at the reunion. Will try. Time is taking its toll, but at 92 plus what does one expect.

A salute to all comrades !!

God Bless All of you, and

God Bless America !

Wyett H. Colclasure, Capt. ret.

Anti-Tank Co., 39th Inf.
William H. Sage

I sent in my dues for three more years but forgot to send these pictures. These photos were both taken along the Rhine River at Remagen, Germany. The photo of the three men in the boat are, from left to right, Nelson Rice, Henry Geisel and myself, William Sage; all from the Headquarters platoon of Anti-Tank Co., 39th Regiment.

The second photo of us near the shore are, standing from left to right, myself (William H. Sage) and Bill Fromm and kneeling is Nelson Rice.

I remember one instance when a single German bomber came over and dropped his bombs, but they did not hit the bridge. This was a real slow moving plane and all the anti-aircraft machine guns and whatever opened up on that plane from the time it

was sighted until it disappeared from view. If anything hit that plane it certainly showed no sign of it. That was almost unbelievable that he managed to get through, but it happened.

If you can use the photos fine, if not its OK. Thanks so much,

A proud veteran of the 9th Division,
William H. Sage



1st Bn. Hdq. Co. - 47th Inf.
Anthony (Andy) Andriola

Read your article "The New Jersey Chapter". I helped put the New Jersey Chapter together with Ed Hopkins. I was Commander of the Nutley Am-Vets Post 30 and used our post as a headquarters for the chapter meetings. I have a tape of the meeting, it brings back many thoughts of our chapter. When "Hoppy" decided to have meetings at different locations the Chapter began to fade out. Nutley was a central area for meetings and easy to reach.

In the near future if you would like to have some sort of a mini-reunion, please contact me and we can put together a good little get-together. My post is easy to get at with plenty of parking. We can put together a good breakfast or a lunch affair.

I was with the 9th Division from January 1941 to August 1945, and a member of the Association since 1945. I have many pictures of the 9th. I am still Commander of Am-Vets Post 30 Nutley.

In comradeship,

Anthony (Andy) Andriola

2nd Bn. Hdq. Co. - 60th Inf.
Ronald MacArthur Hirst

GERMANY

Yesterday I received the February Octofoil. And today I received Andre Hamel's latest history of the Ninth Infantry Division. 252 pages, paperback. What an effort - it is in the French tongue but I would recommend it to all Ninth veterans who served in the ETO.

The first 63 pages cover the German occupation (1940-1944) and the French resistance activity. Then follows 100 pages marking historically the Ninth movements in the same area - our coming ashore on Utah 10 June until the final action 30 June when we'd cleared the last German out of Auderville at the tip of the Cap de la Hague. This section includes 37 pictures and three maps. Excellent account.

There are several pages summarizing our North African campaign which includes a map of our travels there from SAFI until debarkation for Sicily at ORAN. There is a like summary of the Sicilian campaign which too includes a map, in at PALERMO, on to RANDAZZO and back to PALERMO for debarkation to England.

Then a chapter on our COBRA participation which includes an excellent account of the USAAF bombing - then continuing on (in summary) our march through northeast France, into Belgium and Germany with our meeting of the Russian at the end of the ETO campaign, includes an excellent route map with the final march from DESSAU/KLEUTSCH area to MANCHING near INGOLSTADT. These accounts also are supplemented with pictures - pictures meaning reproduction of original photographs.

Pictures include the Paddy FLINT memorial at Le Desert; the victory parade in CHERBOURG; capture of von SCHLIEBEN and HENNECKE at CHERBOURG likewise the capture of General SATTLER. In the center of the book are four pages of color photographs - remembrances. The 39th memorial at QUINEVILLE; the memorial at GEOSVILLE; the Ninth memorial at BARNEVILLE; the BLANCHARD memorial at ST. MAURICE; the VAN RYN memorial at TEURTHVILLE-HAGUE; the PADULA memorial at GREVILLE-HAGUE; the Operation COBRA memorial at LA CHAPELLE-ENJUGER and the memorial at FLA-MANVILLE.

The book, "1939-1945 EN HAGUE - SUD", et les chemins victorieux de la 9th

Division US d'Utah-Beach a Goury, de Carentan a Mortain jusqu'a l'Elbe, costs 23 Euros or \$33 (at the current rate of exchange). It can be ordered from the publisher: EUROCIBLES, 1 Centre de Clos l'EVZque, B. P. 3, F- 50570 MARIGNY, France. The easiest way, I believe, would be to by FAX: 00 33 233 55 00 01 or e-Mail: <renegautier@formail.fr>

Whether you read French or NOT, it is I believe, a must-have-book for all who continue to seek the total story of our not-to-be forgotten accomplishments. Whether you came all the way from Bragg, or whether you joined from a reple-depot enroute. I still feel strongly that one day our fearless leadership will grant Andre an honorary membership in our Association. This is his second work on our division. His other work, published for the 40th anniversary of D-Day, was: "SIX ANS DE GUERRE 1939-1945 (Le 9th Division US d'Utah Beach a Goury), published by SAINT-ROCH, F-50260 BRICQUEBEC, France. I don't know if this one is still in print.

As to your encouraging that we assist Ralf Klodt in his research on the Remagen bridgehead - I'll look into that. My first question will be, what is the end result of your research! A book? A paper? Will the OCTOFOIL receive copy?

Years past I assisted one in a similar request - all went into his private file and NOTHING came out. Likewise I've provided information of a like sort to the Remagen city Peace Museum, located as you know in one of the bridges former towers. Most of it is gathering dust.

It became my profession after hostilities. I gathered every scrap I could find - DOCUMENTS. Even from the Brits, with whom I used to do marches with their Sandhurst cadets - years past.

Yes, just to let you know, from this side of the pond we continue to assist any and all whom are recommended by the OCTOFOIL or to families who insert "search-type" letters. There too Andre has been of immeasurable assistance to any number of Ninth family members. And, I must add, not all have acknowledged his assistance once.

But, with that, I will close. Spring has sprung and this octogenarian has a HUGE ground to take care of and with those years behind me I must start a bit earlier than in former years. Thank goodness the 47 rose bushes were trimmed this winter. But the snow drops are out as are the crocus and everything else is about to break out of their winter sleep.

Take care of one another. This 2d Bn/60th -man will be in touch.

Ronald MacArthur Hirst

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

THE OCTOFOIL

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