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The Octofoil, May/June/July 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 3 May-June-July, 2005

PVT William E. (Biggie) Adams

PVT William E. (Biggie)

Adams

Company C, 15th Combat

Engineers Battalion

9th Infantry Division

KIA 14 October 1944

William E. Adams was born 14 August 1922 in Winchester, Kentucky. He attended Winchester City Schools and Christian Church and went by the nickname of "Biggie". He and his younger brother, Gordon Ishmael, were both inducted into the U.S. Army Engineer Corps in November of 1943 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

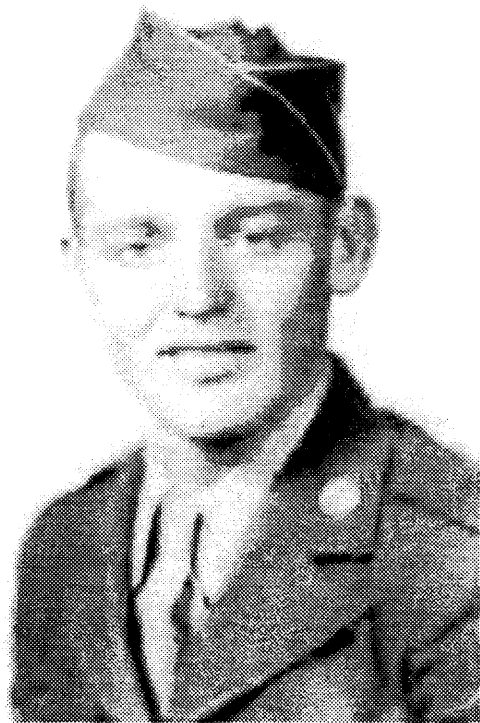
He sailed for Europe in May of 1944, landing in England where he was assigned to the Army's 9th Infantry "Old Reliables" Division as a member of Company C in the 15th Combat Engineer Battalion. They had been preparing for the Normandy Invasion. They landed on Utah Beach 10 June 1944 and joined the battle for Cherbourg. They took part in the St. Lo breakthrough and fought across France to the Siegfried Line. On 14 October 1944 PVT William E. Adams was listed as M.I.A. and remained so until 13 April 1945. Grandfather's picture appeared that day on the front page of the Winchester Sun, in the right column and President Franklin Roosevelt appeared in the left column as they had both passed on to their eternal reward. He was officially listed as K.I.A. 14 October 1944.

PVT William E. Adams "Gave his life for his country to Germany" as the family had requested to be inscribed on his tombstone. A German land mine took the life of this twenty-two year old American hero. He earned the Nation's third highest Honor for Gallantry in Action that day, the Silver Star.

First laid to rest at Henri-Chapelle in Belgium, he was later moved to a family plot in Winchester Cemetery in Winchester, Kentucky. He was survived by his wife, Polly, Daughter Joyce Marie and Son, Ronald Gayle. He now lies at rest next to his beloved mother, Mrs. Lillie W. Adams, who passed away 6 May 1986.

I was blessed with the wonderful opportunity to meet my Great grandmother, Lillie W. Adams for the first and only time as a young 20 year old Paratrooper with the 82nd "All American" Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, NC. The year was 1980, and right after the valiant effort of some of our elite troops at Fort Bragg in attempting to rescue American hostages held in Iran. This moment in time had broken down the "Wall of Silence" between us and we visited well into the afternoon. My Great Uncle, George Adams took the photo of Great grandmother Lillie and me in uniform that will be included in the next AWON History book. That day I held Great Grandma Lillie's hand and told her that I had earned my Silver Paratrooper Wings in memory of PVT William E. Adams, the Grandfather I never knew. The Gold Star Mother spoke fondly of her son and I thanked her for the sacrifice he had made, and that she had endured all of those years. A special picture was taken of Great Uncle George and me at attention at Grandpa's gravestone. A moment in time that will always hold a special place in my heart! I miss you Grandpa. Rest in peace, till we meet at the Savior's feet!

-Ronald Gayle Burrus, Jr. |



President's Message

by Bill Robey

Once again I am back with more information about our reunion. Rather than becoming long winded, this time I shall try to keep it short and to the point. All information is final as this is the last Octofoil before the reunion. There are certain details yet to be worked out, such as exact times for events and etc. These details will be worked out and all the exact information necessary for your enjoyment will be in the program package given to each person who registers.

Remember, as I have stated in the past, all payments were supposed to be made before AUGUST 1, and if you did not get your payment in on time, then your money HAS BEEN REFUNDED & YOUR RESERVATION CANCELLED. I have stated before in these articles that I will not be chasing someone for several months to get money that should have been paid in advance. If you are one of those whose reservation has been cancelled, I am very sorry, but the rules are the same for everyone. Contact me and I will see if we can reinstate you.

We now have 159 rooms reserved, as of July 15, which totals 315 people. Of this total, over 100 are from the Sons and Daughters group. The reservation list has had so many changes made in it that the hotel, and me, will be happy to see what should be the last rooming list change hands on August 1. There will be a name and address list given to each registrant of all who attend the reunion. This will list name, address, phone, and unit designation and will list Sons and Daughters and Grandchildren as well. This way, everyone will have a list of all the attendees. I was going to try to break down the reservations to show how many members are attending, and how many spouses. How many Sons and Daughters and who is coming from which unit of the division. That sort of breakdown would have made this article far too long, and this information will be available in the program package given to each registrant.

I have had a lot of help from members and especially from the Sons and Daughters group in preparing for this reunion. I want to thank each and every member who has pitched in to help, even if your help was very small. All efforts to help out are really appreciated. I have ended previous articles by saying "More Later". This time I will end by saying "See you all at the Reunion."

Bill Robey, 15th Engrs- President

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION WORCESTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

Worcester - 2005

"Lest We Forget"

We who call ourselves the "Friends of Father Connors" shall meet again in praying for our dead on Sunday, October 23, 2005 at the ten o'clock Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Grove Street in Worcester, MA.

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

We will sponsor a luncheon at the Holiday Inn, 500 Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA 01605

As our late friend Tom Boyle had always stated, "We will have you on your way home by 3:00 PM."

We have reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn, Worcester, MA. The CP room will be opened about 4 PM on Saturday for your enjoyment. Room reservations must be made by yourselves.

The phone number is 1-508-852-4000.

Reservations must be in by September 20, 2005

Reservations for luncheon must be made payable to the Ninth Infantry Division Association at a "per person cost of \$20.00 and mailed to Herbert E. Olsen, P.O. Box 845, Marstons Mills, MA 02648

Tom Boyle - Fran Maher - Ron Murphy - Herb Olsen

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.

- George H. Brown** in memory of **Page Roger Dye** of Co. A - 15th Engineers.
John Bonkowski in memory of **LTC Matt Urban** of the 60th Inf.
Mrs. Ethel Smith in honor and memory of her husband, **John J. Smith** of A/T Co. - 47th Inf.
Adolph Wadalavage in memory of **Franklin Avery** of the 9th Military Police Platoon.
Gail Eisenhower in remembrance of her father, **Lt. John C. Eisenhower**, KIA Co. K - 60th Inf.
John Van Son in memory of his buddies of Company L - 39th Infantry Regiment.
Mrs. Betty R. Evans in memory of her husband, **Clifford C. Evans** of Service Co. - 47th Inf
The 60th Inf. M Co. men in memory of both **Al Bruchac** and **Wilfred M. Thornton**.
John Bonkowski in memory of **Nick “Cappy” Capobianco** of the 9th Recon Troop.
Mrs. Rosamae N. Mooty in fond memory of her husband, **W. H. Mooty** of Co. E - 47th Inf.
Stanley Kazdoy in memory of all of the deceased buddies of the 39th Infantry.
G. G. Bryant in memory of **Bertie Blockley**, widow of **George Blockley** of the 9th M. P.s
Adolph Wadalavage in memory of both **Bertie and George Blockley** of the 9th M. P.s
Richard E. Cooley in memory of his friends on the 9th Medical Bn’s Honor Roll
Mrs. Bev Phillips in memory of her father, **Dr. Russel Hummel** of the 9th Medical Bn.
John Bonkowski in memory of **Val Grgurich**, wife of **Jakie Grgurich**, 9th QM Company.
Emil Langer in memory of **Mrs. William Hroch**, his relative.
George H. Brown in memory of **Earl Wilkey** of Co. F - 47th Inf.
Monty McDaniel in memory of **Charles Millard Rose** of Co. G - 60th Inf.

REGISTRY OF REMEMBRANCE

Thank you for sending me The OCTOFOIL issues; I apologize for having to have special handling and am enclosing a little something extra to cover the postage and envelopes.

I was surprised and embarrassed to see my letter to you on the front page and hope your readers know that all my efforts to honor the men of the Ninth are sincere and I am truly grateful to all of you.

My understanding about why many veterans do not want to submit their service history to the WW II Registry of Remembrance is because they are so humble that they feel it is like, “tooting their own horn” if they submit one on their own behalf. The reality is that they are the only ones who can provide accurate information about their service history and so many have no one else who will do it for them. I implore you to convince every veteran you know, regardless of branch, division or theatre, to register themselves. We can not be allowed to forget their sacrifices.

If any of your readers continue to feel uncomfortable, William Sauers, Gail Eisenhower and myself will submit their information for them as a “Friend of the Ninth” or “Friends of the Ninth”. William and Gail will be at the reunion in September and will assist the attendees there, but for those who will not be there please have them write me or e-Mail me if they would like us to help by mail.

Sending grateful Aloha always,
Lisa Froug-Hirano

[Redacted signature]

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

LADIES CORNER

Hello Ladies,

Received a few checks from Auxiliary members for the Ladies Luncheon. Don’t forget to mail me yours so I can turn in to the hotel the amount that will be attending by the end of August. I don’t think they will accept any requests once the reunion starts. So do it now so you aren’t left out.

Please bring your membership card with you so it can be marked when you are paying your dues at the meeting. This saves us money not having to give out new cards every year.

Also, don’t forget the names and addresses of any VA hospital you wish to submit for consideration to receive a money donation from us. Names submitted will be voted on at the meeting. Depending on the amount in our Treasury, we usually choose two or three places to receive a gift of \$200 each. If a certain section of the hospital is where you wish the money given, please specify at the time of your request. These VA hospitals can be located in any state; all are eligible.

Final reminder - Pollyanna gift to exchange at meeting (Several Dollars for gift) and something for the table. Chances for these Table gifts are sold during the reunion days and the winning numbers will be drawn on the banquet night.

Looking forward to seeing you at this 60th Reunion to make it a special event with a group of great guys and gals.

God willing, we’ll see you there.

[Redacted text]

SONS and DAUGHTERS of the NINTH

Just a friendly reminder that I am ordering T-shirts (see attachment, if you have Adobe Acrobat, which the Octofoil doesn’t have) for this year’s 60th Reunion of the 9th.

Please let me know if you would like to order one or two or three shirts. The cost is \$10 each and I will mail them to you so that you can pack them for the reunion. We will have men’s sizes (s, m, l, xl & xxl). Any size that you need that is larger than xxl will cost an extra \$2 more. I will bring a limited amount of these shirts to the reunion, but we will have to ask for an increase in price. The shirt is white with an Octofoil logo on the left breast with the wording “Sons and Daughters of the 9th Infantry Division Association” in blue on three lines. Then below, in red, “World War II Memorial” on two lines with the Memorial aerial logo in blue to the left. It is hard to describe accurately with words. The shirt must be seen to be appreciated. Trust us, you will like them.

Send your order and \$ to Mary Cooper, 11218 Timberline Road, Houston, TX 77043, and I will send them out ASAP. If you are sending a check, please make it payable to Mary Cooper.

There will be another S & D newsletter in the mail sometime in August to give you all a last minute up-date. (For some reason, the Octofoil does NOT receive the S & D news-letter. We have requested it previously.)

See ya in DC.
Mary Cooper

Co. H - 47th Inf.
Cecil and Elizabeth Overton
[Redacted signature]

My wife and I would love to join you’ll there in DC. We joined in many of the past reunions - the last one was the 50th. There were not many of my unit left and we were saddened by the few. We enjoyed the activities of past get-togethers and always looked forward to seeing and talking with everyone there.

We wish our health would allow us to join you’ll this year in person - but it is not meant to be. so will use this means to say “Howdy” to you’ll and know we will be with you in spirit. We enjoy the OCTOFOIL and read it together every word. Keep em coming.

Cecil and Elizabeth Overton.

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

Page Roger Dye Co. A - 15th Engr. Bn.	Wilfred M. Thornton Co. M - 60th Inf.
Peter DiChino 39th Inf. Regt,	Nicholas Capobianco 9th Recon Troop
Franklin Avery 9th Military Police Platoon	John T. Weatherall Co. K - 39th Inf.
Mrs. Bertie Blockley widow of George Blockley, 9th Military Police Platoon	John H. Badura Co. H - 60th Inf.
Clifford C. Evans Service Co. - 47th Inf.	Walter J. Pochis Co. B - 9th Medical Bn.
Robert C. Baldrige Hdq. Bttry. - 34th F. A. Bn.	Richard E. Cooley Hq. Co. - 9th Medic Bn.
William C. Westmoreland Hdq. Bttry. - 34th F. A. Bn.	Edward I. Novak 9th Medical Battalion
Charles Millard Rose Co. G - 60th Inf.	

M Co. - 60th Inf.

Bob Bovanizer

[Redacted]

Dear Friends of M Co. (60th Inf.)

The heat of the summer came quickly this year. No warning. Hope this short note reaches many of you . If you know someone from M Co. who does not belong to the Association please let them know the news in our note. You read in the last Octofoil that Al Bruchac had passed. I sent a sympathy card and told Patrice we would inform the Co. via the newsletter. Any notes would surely be welcome.

Jennifer Thornton called on June 7th to say that her father, Wilfred M. Thornton had passed as a result of an auto accident. Will was an original at Bragg in 1940 and was rotated home in February 1945. (Editor's Note: Two issues ago, Jan. - Feb. 2005, we posted a letter from Capt. Thornton in the Mail Call section.) If you would like to send a note or card to Jennifer Thornton, her address is 3917 Miami Street, South Bend, IN 46613. I am sure she would like to hear from you.

I am enclosing a check in memory of Al Bruchac and Will Thornton from the 60th Inf. M Co. men. Keep in touch and take care of each other.

Sincerely,
Bob and "Me Too"

Mrs. D. Walker Wainwright

[Redacted]

You may already know but I thought I should write that my father, Robert C. Baldrige, who was a 2nd Lt. in the 9th Infantry Division during WW II died on February 19th, suddenly and peacefully at home. He was so proud of his association in the Ninth Infantry Division. We, his family, were so proud of him.

Sincerely,
Ceile Wainwright

9th Military Police Platoon

Adolph Wadalavage

[Redacted]

Received a letter from Charlie warner, out in Bound Brook, NJ concerning Mrs. Bertie Blockley. She passed away May 14, 2005. Her husband, George was a former M.P.

List her in the "Taps Column". Enclosed is a check for the Memorial Fund in her name.

You can remove her name off the Octofoil mailing list as she was the last member of the Blockley family. I have the newspaper obituary clipping that Charlie sent me of Bertie, if you want it.

All the best,
Adolph

ALBERT E. BRUCHAC

April 8, 1917 April 6, 2005

Al Bruchac's military career started with his attending O.C.S.I, which was the first O.C.S. class held at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon the successful completion of the course, the new officer was assigned to the 60th Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. They further assigned him to Company M in the 3rd Battalion.

He knew all of the more well-known officers of the 60th Regiment, such as Colonel Frederick de Rohan, Matt Urban, Slick Wilson, and Pat Williamson, to name a few, as many of you also know them. As with many of his fellow soldiers and friends, Al served in all of the Ninth's campaigns from the beginning until the end of the war, moving through the tasks in the Company and the Battalion, where he was serving as the Executive Officer of the 3rd Battalion when the war came to a close.

Al Bruchac helped start the Greater New York Chapter of the Ninth Infantry Division Association and to obtain a Charter, which was granted in 1948. In 1951 at the reunion held in the Hotel Commodore, in New York City, his fellow members on the Board of Governors selected Al to lead the National Association as President. Al Bruchac accepted the post and during his term in office, he worked to put the Association on a firm basis for future years.

Al leaves his wife Pat Bruchac, a daughter Mary Wolf and son-in-law, son Chip Bruchac, and grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Patrice Bruchac, at [Redacted]

The above thumb-nail sketch of Albert E. Bruchac was submitted by his acquaintance from the Army, who later became his close friend in the Greater NY Chapter, C. Michael Gatto, Co. I - 60th Inf.

9th Recon Troop

Thomas J. Capobianco

[Redacted]

It is my sad duty to report the passing of my father, Nicholas Capobianco. My father was with the 9th RECON from 1941 to 1945. He told me of being drafted in 1941 with the expectation of being in the Army for one year. Instead he was with the 9th from Fort Bragg on to the end in Germany, making stops at North Africa, Sicily, England, France and Belgium along the way. He was very proud of his service and the 9th Division. Many "Army buddies" became friends who correspond to this day with our family. He enjoyed the 9th Division reunions and the Octofoil newsletter.

I'm proud to say he helped raise three children and was married for almost 59 years. After his Army discharge he worked in the US Postal Service for over 30 years.

My father was buried with full military honors on April 27, 2005. His sacrifice and those of his generation will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Capobianco

CO. A - 9th Medical Battalion

Pat Cooley Lewis

[Redacted]

Dick Cooley

[Redacted]

General Douglas MacArthur in his farewell address at West Point said old soldiers do not die they just fade away. We are writing to let you know that our beloved father LTC Richard E. Cooley (USA - Ret.) has faded away. On July 3, 2005, after a 3-week illness, this former member of Company A - 9th Medical Battalion passed away from pneumonia and congestive heart failure.

Today, July 9th, we held a memorial service at his church, Faith United Methodist Church of Richmond, TX. His friends said it better than we ever could. He loved life, had high energy, and touched everyone around him. He knew no strangers, was always outgoing, had a great sense of humor, made everyone special, and above all else made us laugh. All will surely and sorely miss him.

Dad loved the military, all aspects of it. One of his wishes was that upon his death he be buried, with full military honors, at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC. We have arranged with Arlington for the burial and it will take place on September 16, 2005, at 1:00 PM. Anyone that can make it to the services is welcome and we would love to see you there.

Memorials in honor of Dad may be made to Faith United Methodist Church Building Fund, 4600 FM 359, Richmond, TX 77469 or to the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 600, Rockville, MD 20852. The Fisher House Foundation donates houses built on the grounds of major military installations and VA medical centers to enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful time.

One of the most difficult tasks we faced was to go through Dad's paperwork. The process while difficult also made us realize how many people Dad knew and kept in touch with. We have tried to capture all the names and addresses but know we must have missed someone. If you know one of Dad's friends please let them know of his passing just in case their address was not located.

His loving children,
Pat Lewis and Dick Cooley

CHAPTER NEWS

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Our annual picnic was held at the home of Mary Doering in Alto, MI on July 16, 2005. We hold a memorial service at that time. Mary has a beautiful park like setting for such a service, quiet and peaceful.

We are looking forward to the reunion in Washington this September.

The only other event we have scheduled is our Christmas dinner in Frankenmuth, MI in December.

We just received word that Dorothy Daniels, widow of Calvin Daniels, passed away over two years ago. You will remember Dorothy and Calvin at reunions selling Ninth Infantry jewelry. They had moved to northern Michigan after retirement, where he died some years ago. Her daughter called because we were sending the chapter newsletter to her. She said it was very sudden and she didn't think to contact the chapter or national.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Wisniewski
Secretary, Michigan Chapter

TEXAS & THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

"... where the deer and the antelope play ..." is where the Chapter found itself on April 7 and 8, deep in the hill country of Texas at the town of Leakey. The Frio Canyon Lodge, built in 1941 was a pleasant surprise. What was unique is that the population of Leakey is only 341 souls (and we brought the census up to 355 for two days) and can support a very fine restaurant.

On a balmy evening we sat on the patio enjoying hors d'oeuvres and a variety of wines, followed by soup, salad, steaks and shrimp. Following a made-to-order breakfast the following morning, our host Arlington attorney, Albert Ross, displayed his collection of US World War II infantry weapons collected over many years.

While many were familiar with the weapons they used, he offered an insight on the history and development of each of the guns. The M-1 Garand, .30 cal carbine, Thompson sub-machine gun, the '03 rifle, 45 cal pistol and the BAR. He has sold the BAR for \$22,000 (which probably cost under \$200 to make). For each of the weapons he also collected the original manuals, and where appropriate, the cartridge webbing for the clips or magazines.

At the business meeting, an election of officers was held. Our President-elect is Jack Blann. After many years as Secretary-Treasurer, Ernie Botella asked to be replaced. Herb Stern agreed to take over Ernie's duties as Secretary-Treasurer.

Attending the meeting were: M/M Jack Blann, M/M Ernie Botella, M/M John Miller, M/M Willard Norris, M/M Herb Stern, Charles Scheffel, Gordon Schneider, and author Barry Bosden who is working on several books.

On March 13, 2005, FOX NEWS CHANNEL, aired the INVASION of SICILY, hosted by Oliver North. Charles Scheffel who served with Company A of the 39th Regiment was interviewed for that program.

Our next meeting will probably be the 2nd week in November.

For those who served with H Company, 47th Infantry in North Africa, the name Captain Horace M. Spaulding may be familiar. He was captured in March of 1943 and was a POW for 26 months in Poland. His last residence was in Arlington, Texas, where he died on December 16, 2004.

Gordon A. Schneider

FLORIDA CHAPTER

FL CHAPTER REUNION: All plans have been made for the Florida Chapter November 2, 3, 4 & 5 Annual Reunion. Order Forms and Information Sheets will be mailed to all dues paying members approximately 6 weeks prior to opening day. Please send in your reservations as soon as possible after receipt as we must know the number of people who plan to attend so that we can order Theatre Tickets, Restaurant reservations, tickets to Silver Springs Attractions, etc. Any National Members and especially those living in Florida are welcome to attend the Florida Chapter Reunion. Contact Emil De Donato at 352/489-4070 for details.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: Please add new member Robert F. Hughes, Sr. 7900 Gayeway Dr., Louisville, KY 40210, Co. A 15th Eng. 39th Inf. to your Roster. Hopefully, we will have an opportunity to meet Robert and introduce him to our group during our coming reunion. he Florida Chapter fiscal year, when dues are due, is April 1st to the following year on March 31st. We are trying to adjust the records so that all members pay their dues on or shortly after April 1st in the year that their dues are due.. Any questions??? contact Emil.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS: Cletus Winningham: Lula stated that Cletus suffered a fall on June 15th and as a result, his back and right heel suffered a set back. A visit to the doctor's office showed no broken bones. Doctor prescribed pain killing medication with plenty of rest. Lulu and Cletus attended many past National Reunions and Florida Chapter meetings. They are looking forward to being with us in November. Ed & Ruth Gray: A note from Eddie stated that they left for their summer home on 217 Hayes Ct., Normandy Beach, NJ the end of May. They usually return to their home in St. Petersburg on or about September 15th. Ed does a good job in revising the Membership Roster on his computer. God willing ... we'll see you in November. Paul & Eunice Crumb are spending their summer months at their Broctondale, NY home. They promised to be back to their Ocala home in plenty of time to help set up our coming reunion. Paul and Eunice are part of our 2005 Reunion Committee.

P. S. On July 5th I had a cataract removed from my right eye. All is well. I can now see better so send me news of what's happening in your lives.

Emil J. DeDonato

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

The chapter met at the Long Island National Cemetery, Pinelawn, NY for the Annual 9th Infantry Division Memorial Service on Armed Forces Day, May 21, 2005. Attending were: Joe Charvat, Anton Dietrich, Ed Harris, Joe & Emma Killen, Marv Levy, John Tschupp, Tony & Viola Varone, Adolph Wadalavage and Al & Genevieve Zenka.

MEMORIAL

At 10:30 AM the group marched from the parking lot along the Boulevard of Flags to the main assembly area. Two members carried the Octofoil wreath with its wire stand behind two flag bearers carrying the fluttering Stars and Stripes and the 9th Division standard. The wreath was placed at the base of the main flag pole behind the speaker's rostrum flanked by the two flags. The seated group was protected by a large plastic tent cover set up by the grounds keepers. The weather was warm with blue skies, fluffy clouds and a mild brisk breeze.

1st VP Tony Varone presided over the ceremony in the absence of President Ed Leddy. Varone led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and in the singing of the Star Spangled Banner with the accompaniment of the recorded music supplied by the cemetery sound system. Chaplain Joe Killen gave the convocation. Varone, Killen, Marv Levy and Adolph Wadalavage gave short somber addresses in memory of our 5,481 lost buddies of WWII and those who have since left us.. Recorded Taps closed the ceremony. We thanked the ground keepers for their excellent accommodation and headed for the nearby community room for a short meeting.

CHAPTER MEETING

Varone opened the meeting, dispensing with the regular salutation. Recording Secretary Levy read the minutes of the April meeting. No financial report was given due to the absence of Secretary/Treasurer Joe Maiale. The only correspondence the chapter received was a thank-you from the family of Al Bruchac for our condolence on his passing.

Varone made a motion for the chapter to pay for a member's 9th Division overseas cap which would be worn on all official occasions. Members approved the motion.

Varone asked the group who was going to the Washington, DC Reunion in September. Killen, Wadalavage, Zenka and Maiale plan to attend. Charlie LiBretto now ensconced in Texas would attend but would be going off the Board of Governors. A NY delegate would be appointed at the next meeting. According to Octofoil newspaper accounts Killen said there are approximately 1,000 members left in the National Association. Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 PM and eight members and wives went to lunch at the 110 Liberty Diner nearby, paid for by the chapter. Next meeting would take place on June 18 at our regular Franklin Square Library command post.

JUNE 18 MEETING

On Friday, June 18, 2005, seven members of the NY Chapter met at the Franklin Square Public Library, Franklin Square, Long Island, NY. At 1:00 PM the opening salutation was led by 1st VP Tony Varone in the absence of President Ed Leddy. The Pledge of Allegiance, the Chaplain's prayer and the moment of silent remembrance preceded the reading of the minutes by the Recording Secretary, yours truly, and the Financial report given by Secretary/Treasurer Joe Maiale.

PIZZA LUNCH

Being this was the last meeting before the summer hiatus, Maiale had ordered a pizza lunch for all to enjoy during the meeting. The pizza arrived about 2:00 PM. Some discussion was held on the selection of delegates for the Washington Reunion in September. Joe Killen would be the NY delegate on the Finance committee.

The original suggestion made by Varone for the chapter to supply overseas caps to members free was brought up again by Adolph Wadalavage. He contended the expense would be a strain on our small treasury. He proposed members pay for the caps, noting different head sizes and high cost of letter-stitching. Upon this consideration members agreed and the resolution was changed for members to pay for their own caps. Varone would check out a source and cost of the caps.

Ed Harris informed us with more details of his experiences with the VA hospital in New York City.. Wadalavage said he was in touch with a German writer looking for information of the 9th Division's participation in the Ludendorff bridge crossing at Remagen.

After gorging ourselves with pizza, at 3:30 PM Maiale made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anton Dietrich. We all wished each other a happy and healthy summer and headed home.

NY Chapter's next meeting will be in the Fall on Friday, September 16, 2005, 1:00 PM. at the Library - - - eight days before the Washington reunion.

Check your membership cards for paid up dues. Renewal is \$10 for one year, \$25 for 3 years, and \$75 for Lifetime membership. If due make checks payable to the 9th Inf. Div. Assn., Greater NY Chapter. Send to Secretary/ Treasurer Joe Maiale, 906 3rd Avenue, Franklin Square, NY 11010.

Marv Levy
Co. A - 60th

NINTH RECON

We’ve kept in touch with Mrs. Dottie Capobianco and the signs of progress that Nick was showing in the hospital was very encouraging. Then on April 23rd Tom Capobianco called and left a message that his Dad passed away at 10:40 that morning. It was a big shock because we really felt that “Cappy” would make it. Our sympathy went out to Dottie and the entire family with a promise that we’d stay in touch.

Gordon Anderson was stunned at the sad news as he was putting a note together to Cappy when I called him. During our chat Gordon mentioned another recent surprise. This one was a pleasant visit by John and Helen Clouser on one of their Florida trips. We also talked with Fred Schroeder from the Ninth Recon. We learned that he had a mild heart attack and has fully recovered. We are thankful that he’s doing fine.

Back in March we received a note from Mrs. Evelyn Ledford, daughter of Jakie and Valeria Grgurich that her Mom passed away on March 19, 2005. We called her Dad to express our condolences and recalled many memories of happier times. Jakie and Val were long-time members of the Michigan Chapter from far away Novinger, MO. Although the distance kept them from attending our Chapter doings, it was always a pleasure to have them on our convention buses.

Pope John Paul II died at the time our last article was being put together. It brought some memories of Matt Urban that I was hoping to share with you but we ran out of space. Back in 1987 Matt Urban was the Grand Marshall of the Annual Hamtramck Labor Day Parade. Before all the changes it was a real Polish town in Michigan where I spent my earliest years. As the Grand Marshall, we had a convertible all decorated for Matty but he chose to march the entire mile and a half down Joseph Campau Avenue, which is Hamtramck’s Main Street. That was the same route, albeit in reverse, that Pope John Paul II would take a couple of weeks later during his visit on September 19th. There was a great crowd as we paraded together to the reviewing stand from where we observed the remainder of the parade. It was while we were on the stand that Matty told me that he would like to come back on the 19th to meet the Pope.

I was confident that this could be arranged. Because of the Great War there was a common bond between them. The Pope was there when the War first began with Hitler’s vicious invasion of Poland, and he lived through that horrible occupation. On the other hand, Matty did more than his share to help bring this to an end. I’m sure that the Pope would have been pleased to meet Matty. I knew the pastor who was organizing the Pope’s visit so everything looked promising for them to meet. But when Father Ted B. was approached with Matty’s wish I was shocked at his senseless response, “If I did it for him, I’d have to do it for everyone.” Matty took it better than I did when I informed him. Neither of us returned on the 19th and the turnout for the Pope’s visit was a big disappointment. Father Ted is no longer there, but to this day he blames it all on an “over restrictive security.”

Matty did return every Labor Day to participate in our parade for the rest of his life. One year he brought Ben Murell with him and we all paraded together. It was always great to see all those people greeting him and he appreciated that. He made his last appearance in 1994 and died six months later. I believe that Matty finally met the Pope and they are together for all Eternity.

Special wishes to a great buddy, Joseph Chmiel on his 90th birthday in July. Joe served in “F” Company, 60th Infantry under Matty Urban’s command. He is also the Senior Member in the Michigan Chapter.

The Chapter was looking forward to that Annual Picnic at Mary Doering’s lovely place in Alto, MI on July 16th. It’s always a nice time to relax and enjoy yourself.

Ms. Cindy Van Wilder expressed her gratitude for Charlie Neal’s and my letter along with a copy of Cpl Earl F. Cook’s History of the Ninth Reconnaissance Troop that enabled her to complete her class project in Belgium.

Henry and Theresa Shimkoski were having medical problems. We’re hoping that all will be well in time for the great National Convention in Washington, DC. Our Best Wishes to All!

Respectfully,
John Bonkowski.

* * * * *

Co. L - 39th Inf.
John Van Son

[Redacted]

I enjoy reading the OCTOFOIL. I wish I could remember the names of my fellow G.I.’s I am in the Barstow Veteran’s Home and have been here for two years and six months. I have lots to talk about but I can’t remember the dates. I would like to have a hat (*Ed’s note: The hat was sent.*) and some photos of the 60th reunion if they have such. How do I stand with my dues now? Please let me know. (Ed’s note: Paid up through 2008)

I wish everyone lots of luck, specially the men of Company L, 39th Infantry Regt.

(My Dad has dictated this letter and a lot of the story he has told me I can not understand. I have watched war movies with him and he would tell me about what he did when he was overseas. Dad is going to have hip surgery - replacement sometime in June or July. I am sure he would like to hear from you. Wishing everyone the very best of luck.)

(Ed’s note: Drop him a get-well card or a note for old times sake.)

WITH THE 15TH ENGINEERS
FROM MAGENTA TO SICILY

The war was over in Tunisia and we were heading back to Algeria. The Division took over a large area south of Oran which was fly and mosquito infested. In less than one month over half of the 9th Division had caught diarrhea, myself included. We stayed in shape by walking and running about two miles a day. The heat was intense, around one hundred degrees every day.

One day they brought a large barrel of wine into our area and said, “This barrel has to be empty before supper chow.” By the time we finished the barrel, we could only crawl to our tents across the sand. When I woke up I looked out of my pup-tent and saw trails in the sand leading to each tent.

Around July 10th we were told Sicily had been invaded and we were going there too. The 39th Infantry Regiment of the 9th was already there as part of the Provincial Corp. On July 25th we started up to Oran with the 47th Infantry. Most of the 47th’s trucks had been requisitioned previously for use in Sicily so the Infantry guys had to walk all the way to Oran. One day the temperature shot up to 114 degrees. After that the Infantry guys had to walk at night, and rest during the day. Our half-track was yelled at all the way up to Oran by the guys who had walked the whole way. We felt sorry for them but what could we do.

After a day or so in Oran we loaded up on a ship and headed for Sicily. We got there August 1st at night. Around 2:00 AM we heard the cry, “All hands on deck.” The shooting had started at two German planes who were trying to bomb the docks. Our ship had a 90 mm gun that was firing so we helped by carrying the ammo up to the gunners. The Krauts gave up and took off.

In the morning we unloaded and walked to a bivouac area near the town of Palermo. All the way along the kids would run along side and ask for “Choc-a-lade” and “Ciga-retto “. Big Tex who was walking in front of me said, “Even the little kids talk Italian here”. I told Big Tex, “What do you think they should talk . . Chinese?”

A few days before the war in Sicily ended I was up on a small hill Observing the terrain as an outpost. Across from me was a battery of 155’s firing away. I looked around as a strange GI came along and asked for a cigarette. When he sat down he told me he was a first-aid medic and was going to be with the 15th Engineers. I told him I was with the 15th Engineers and was glad to have him with us. He told me he had been with the 47th Infantry and how tough life was over there. I told him it was safer with the Engineers , but we had men killed also.

All of a sudden we heard a loud explosion and saw smoke rising at the base of this hill. In a few minutes we heard the cry, “Medic!” and he left. It was only a short time later when there was another explosion. I ran down to see what had happened. I asked a sergeant what happened to the medic who I was just talking to. He replied that the medic had stepped on a “Bouncing Betty” mine and had just been evacuated in a 9th Medic’s jeep. I asked him how bad was the medic, and he said that it looked like he was dying. I told the Sarge how glad the medic was to be able to join the Engineers, but it just didn’t work out.

The war in Sicily ended on August 17th, 1943 and we took a great bivouac area in the outskirts of a town called Cefalu. Three months there went by fast and around November 12th we got on a fairly big ship that took us to Scotland. The next installment will be about our time in England and France.

Yours truly,
Charlie Hoffmann
Co. B - 15th Combat Engrs.

P.S. I just finished reading the OCTOFOIL and noticed that not one of the items are from any of the Engineers. C. H.

* * * * *

Co. A - 15 Combat Engrs.
Pat J. Maisto

[Redacted]

Enclosed is my dues for the next three years. It is hard for me to come to the reunions for health reasons. Enjoy reading the OCTOFOIL. I was in Co. A, 15th Engineers from Fort Bragg till the end of the war in Germany. Am one of the lucky ones as I was in all 8 campaigns. Live close to Fort Bragg now. Not the same as 1941. Don’t hear much from anyone, except a few cards at Christmas. If anyone has a computer, I would like to hear from them. My e-Mail address is <[Redacted]>

Had a birthday on May 5th, 86 now. My wife is 91 and health is bad too. So you see it is hard to travel.

Best wishes to all,
Pat J. Maisto

* * * * *

MAIL CALL

Co. H - 39th Inf.

George A Talley

Thanks for reminding me about my dues. I had no idea how much behind I was and I thank you. I didn't learn about the OCTOFOIL for many years. My good friend G. W. Snead informed me. He served in the 60th. I miss him. We went to the same church here in Centre, AL.

I joined the 9th in North Africa, fought thru Sicily, was wounded in France near St. Lo, then spent a few months in England. I was on my way back when the Germans made the break thru. I spent Christmas in Metz. I was put in the 134th Infantry. I never got back to the 9th and I have always missed my good friends. I have never been able to get in touch with anyone. I feel like you might find one or two for me. These are some of the ones I wish I knew if they made it. Sgt. Warren G. Hovermall, H- 39th; Sgt. George N. Reeves, Florida; Steve Skrypinsky from New York and James K. DeRossett from Kentucky. I believe our Staff Sgt. was Westmoreland from West Virginia. I got wounded again in the break thru. Brain Concussion. Spent one month in France and six months in the U. S. A. before discharge. I'm 83 now.

I met H. F. Stansell and his wife, Lila, in Centre. Lila had a brother here. H. F. gave me a book about the 39th and I enjoyed learning a lot about the 9th, but found nothing about Co. H - 39th or any names that I knew. I would like two decals and let me know if this brings me up to date.

Best wishes to all,
George A. Talley

Co. G - 47th Inf.

Edward G. Janosik

Thank you for sending me a copy of the OCTOFOIL under special cover. I appreciate it.

I feel pretty much like an imposter by associating myself with the Ninth Division, especially during the time it was in combat. The Battle for El Guettar began while I was on Detached Service at a field engineering School conducted by the British in Souk Arrhas. On my return I found that E Company, the Second Platoon of G Company, and all Second Battalion officers had been killed or wounded or captured after only a couple of days under fire. A German mortar crew administered a "Million dollar wound" that required a seven month hospital recuperation, and ended my career as a combat infantryman.

So here I am, with two days of combat experience, rubbing elbows with men who were under fire for months. I should be tending bar for the rest of you. Enclosed you will find a check to the Memorial Fund in honor of First Sergeant Steve Blyshak, G Company, 47th Infantry, killed at St. Lo.

Please add the name of Dr. Leonard Schiffrin of Margate City, NJ to your mailing list. He was the Dental Officer for the Second Battalion, 47th Infantry.

Thank you for your attention to these requests. Martha and I will join you for the 60th Annual Reunion. We should be staying with my daughter in Chevy Chase, Maryland so we won't need hotel accommodations.

Sincerely yours,
Edward Gabriel Janosik
Major, Infantry, AUS Ret.

Co. B - 47th Inf.

Warren A Robinson

Cleaning out and reviewing my World War II photos I found the enclosed.

Left to right: Paul King, Woodford Massey and Warren Robinson. It was taken shortly after the conflict ended in Germany in a small town of Haimhausen. At this point in time, many of our buddies were thinking of the possibility of shipping to the South Pacific to participate in that theater of war.

All the best,
Warren

Company K
STILL KICKING

Went to a 7 month check-up on 5/16/05 to hear the same old tune, growing but not TOO fast. The doctor said he would go out on a limb and promise '06. There was some promising news on the HEART front, my blood pressure is up to 120/70.

I have actually enjoyed having to face my mortality. I now face every day I wake up as a gift to be enjoyed to its fullest. I maintain a list of small, achievable task that I can take on when I have the urge, not when I have to, especially if it requires purchasing a new tool. One thing's for sure, if I see or hear of a new gadget or tool I might enjoy, I don't mess around thinking or justifying. I just get it, because there may not be a next month or next year.

My latest acquisition is a ZERO TURN lawn mower. My 7 year old SNAPPER was doing just fine but it was just another in a long line of Snappers and there was no challenge in driving it, and besides, there was several others on my block. So I measured the choke points in my yard (the smallest = 42") and found that I could purchase one that was only 34" wide. Any fool can see that gives you four inches leeway on either side. The thing drives like a tank with two levers that you push one way or another to go forward or backward, on that side. The further you push it, the faster you go.

When they delivered my toy, I damned near backed out, there is not a sign of a BRAKE on that sucker. I've been mowing next to the lake, at the back of my house, for 42 years and have never put me or a mower in it, and it seemed a little late to start. However, sitting on your throne with nothing in front of you except two levers is just too tempting to turn down, so I kept it. The only thing that resembles a brake, is both levers at neutral, but that just means it is not powering forward, if you are on a slope you can keep on going. I have been meaning to turn that last patch of grass into Jasmine ground cover, and that is exactly what I shall do.

So far I haven't run into anything, but there are times when I have reversed directions a little faster than I desired. Since geometry is of no consequence to this mower, I have to rethink my mowing patterns completely. Come see me, for a hand full of pecans and a bulls-eye aggie I'll let you drive her, in the front yard. I'm the only kid on the block who has one.

K - ROUND UP

JOE KILLACKY - I've talked to JOE several times and he is doing well. Has a new and better apartment and will resume golfing just as soon as it stops snowing, probably early August. His daughter is trying to talk him into going to the reunion. - GOOD GIRL!

HELEN HOLMES - HELEN never stops, she visits her children, relatives, friends, and every casino in sight. When the good Lord made HELEN he broke the MOLD. There shall be no other, and this one shall live into eternity. Love and good will seem to be a longevity elixir. No human was ever more suited to nursing than HELEN. I never saw anyone in her class in the 6 military hospitals I attended.

GEORGE BASTEDO - 1st. Sgt. GEORGE is still hanging in there. Like most old people he sees a whole lot more doctors than friends, especially girl friends, but he is adjusting. A young man is trying to track down his father's path in "K", especially Frenzerberg, but his name didn't register with me, so I went to the TOP KICK. He got out his little morning report and found that the fellow had been in MY platoon. George is not planning on attending the reunion but he is not ruling out his high school's.

Dr. GEORGE NICKLIN - George has finally sold his COUCH and retired to the peace and quiet of Shelter Island. There is probably not one maladjusted person in this haven. He is spending the time he used to fill with other's phobias, writing another best seller about the war - that is WW EYE EYE.

I have a reasonable belief that there are more K - MEN out there but they don't communicate with me.

DRUGS

I have come to the conclusion that the drug ads on TV are paid for by the HEALTH INSURANCE PEOPLE. The possible SIDE EFFECTS that they run through so rapidly are far worse than the disease they are curing. "Tired of irritating hang-nails? Find relief and LOVE with HANG-UP, possible side effects could be, but not limited to, colon cancer gingivitis, and sexual dysfunction

One drug, however, has a possible side effect that is more interesting than its main purpose - "If the erection last more than four hours call your doctor." My doctor would be the LAST person I would call, only after my old girl friends and the new ones I would make with my affliction. I kid my wife ALICE, that they have been reading her mail.

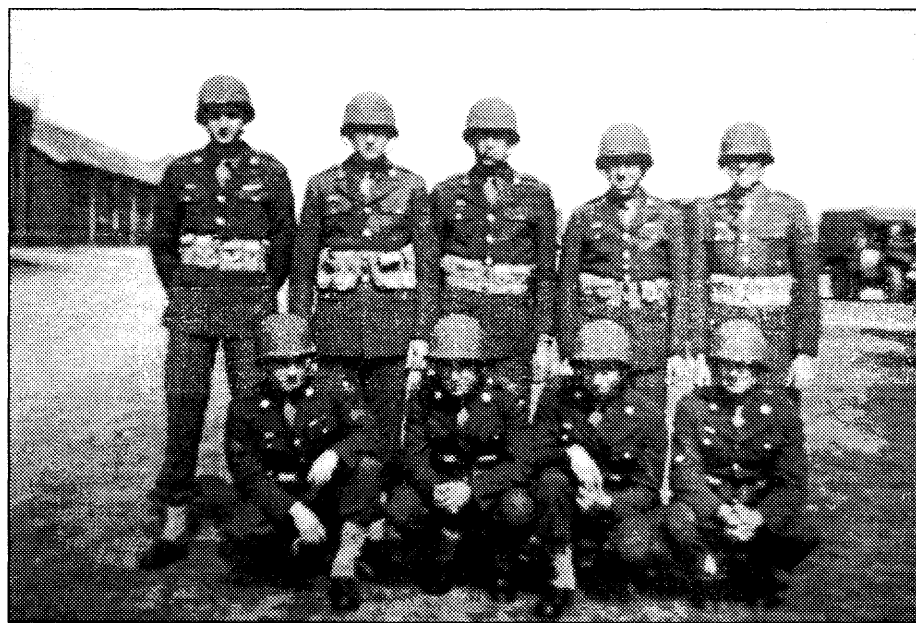
REUNION

I hope that every one of you, who can physically stand the trip to make the REUNION. If it's not the last, the odds are stacked that way. If I can convince myself that I am up to the trip, I'll be there. I will guarantee that my oldest son DOUG will be there.

Chester H. Jordan



Paul E. Alexander



Top Row Left to Right:
 S/Sgt. Paul Alexander - Bloomington, IN. KIA
 PFC William Henderson - Watkins Glen, NY
 PFC Nick Paich - Polk, PA
 PVT Charlie Minnick - Abingdon, VA
 PFC Thomas Flynn - Roslindale, MA KIA
Bottom Row Left to Right:
 SGT. Edward McGrath - Torrington, CT
 PFC Morris Reich - Far Rockaway, NY
 PFC William Bettes - Atwater, OH DOW
 PVT Forrest Hannaah - Powellton, WV

MAIL CALL

(Continued from Page 7)

An OPEN LETTER to the ASSN.

I really enjoy receiving emails from you about the 9th Division, and here is the information I would like to share with the Association. I thought some of the men in the 60th Infantry would enjoy seeing the Regimental Histories for some of their campaigns. I included a couple of other items for you.

1. This is the article from our local paper telling how I discovered my Uncle was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross. The article has an interview with my Aunt, his only living sibling at the time. She has since passed away, but received the medal on March 1, 2001 with the help of Senator Richard Lugar.

2. This is my Uncle's American Battle Monuments Commission page. This is what I located that told me he was a recipient of the DSC.

3. This is the page I put on the WW II Memorial in Washington, DC. They want to get as many WW II soldiers listed as possible. This is the only picture I have of him where you can see the Octofoil shoulder patch..

4. This is the 60th Regimental history for the month of March 1943. It tells what the 60th was doing during the battle for Maknassy.

5. This is the 60th Regimental history for the Sedjenane Campaign.

6. This is the Regimental History for the month of June 1944 for the

60th Infantry Regiment. The National Archives sent me this information. It basically tells the 60th's role on the Cotentin Peninsula and the attack on Cherbourg.

7. This is my Uncle's Distinguished Service Cross case file along with his citation. from what I can tell this is where the actual citation comes from. I found it interesting that twice in the case file Lt. Roland Nelson writes that he was mortally wounded, and the citation says he was seriously wounded.

8. This is an article written by A.J. Liebling for the New Yorker magazine. The article tells of the exploits of Karl C. Warner, one of the men of Company G, 60th Inf.

9. Pictures of Paul E. Alexander and his squad. Names are on the back, and the names and hometowns are on the paper. All are now deceased. Nick Paich was the last one left, and he died in 2004

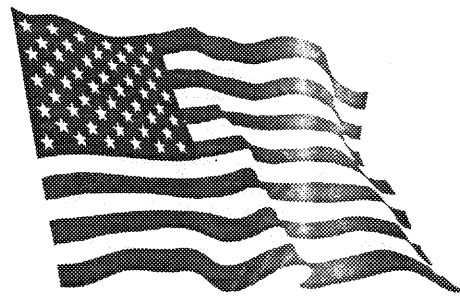
I hope you enjoy seeing and reading this information. I consider it an honor to talk with you and send you this material.

Sincerely,
 Monty McDaniel

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?



GOD BLESS AMERICA

THE OCTOFOIL

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