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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, August/September/October 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 4 Aug.-Sept.-Oct., 2005



President Elect - Jack A. Collier (with microphone) presents Out-Going President William G. Robey with an Octofoil Plaque for His Fine Service. Marriott Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA, Sept. 25, 2005, 60th Reunion.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2005 June 28, 2004 to June 30, 2005

Revenue			
Ordinary Revenue			
Dues paid by Members	\$ 4,263.00		
Donations	3,755.00		
CGM Fund Dividends	104.75		
Sale of Decals	31.50		
Interest on Bank Account	85.53		
Ordinary Revenue	\$ 8,239.78	\$ 8,239.78	
Extraordinary Revenue			
Closing of New Jersey Chapter	\$ 662.82		
2004 Reunion Deposit Loan Repaid	500.00		
2004 Reunion Committee Profit	2,008.22		
Extraordinary Revenue	\$ 3,171.04	\$ 3,171.04	
TOTAL Yearly Revenue		\$ 11,410.82	
Operating Expenses			
Secretary Expenses	\$ 756.00		
Clerical Expense	362.00		
Utilities	780.00		
Supplies & Misc.	256.00		
Octofoil Wreath	150.00		
Postage	232.00		
Bank Charges	69.67		
OCTOFOIL (5 issues) Total Charges	9,349.33		
(Printing & Handling 6,449.50)			
(Postage for Paper 2,899.83)			
TOTAL Yearly Operating Expenses	\$ 11,955.00	\$ 11,955.00	

Summary			
TOTAL Expenses minus TOTAL REVENUE equals YEARLY DEFICIT			
(- \$ 11,955.00) - (+ \$ 11,410.82) = (- \$ 544.18)			
Previous Account Balance of June 28, 2004	\$ 7,610.09		
Account Balance as of June 30, 2005	\$ 7,065.91		
FOR THE PERIOD SINCE JUNE 30, 2005			

July & August Operating Expenses		July & August Income Revenue	
Secretary Expenses	\$ 128.00	Dues paid	\$ 388.00
Clerical Expenses	60.00	Donations	295.00
Utilities	130.00	CGM Fund Div..	50.85
Supplies & Misc.	46.00	Sales of Decals	1.00
Wreath	150.00	Banking Interest	5.69
OCTOFOIL (total)	1,836.28	TOTAL Income	\$ 740.54
TOTAL Expenses	- \$2,348.28	Two month DEFICIT	- \$ 1,607.74

Account Balance June 30, 2005 \$ 7,065.91

Deduct DEFICIT -1,607.74

Account Balance Aug. 28, 2005 \$ 5,458.17

Banking Rule to avoid monthly CHARGES for Maintenance : Balance in the Account MUST EXCEED \$ 5000.00.

Our Invested Funds

CGM Mutual Fund (Stock symbol LOMMX) at the close of business on Friday, September 16, 2005 had a share value of \$ 28.70 per share; up \$6.61 since reported on 3 May, 2004.

The Association holds 719 shares (X \$28.70 = \$20,635.30) in one account, and the Association holds 298 shares (X \$28.70 = \$ 8,552.60) in another account.

For a total of 1017 shares valued at \$ 29,187.90 in Invested Funds.

These Funds are under control of the Board of Governors since May 9th, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph P. Killen, Treasurer

Message from President Jack A. Collier

Thanks a lot! Joe said that he was getting even with me by nominating me for President. In 1998 after I was elected President of this great Association, my first official act was to break a tie for the office of First V.P. I don't believe I even knew Joe, however, I picked him for that office. We all know that he went on to follow Tom Boyle into the office of Treasurer, and shortly after he went on to follow our Dan Quinn into the office as Secretary. What a great job he is doing, handling both jobs.

Our 60th Reunion chairman, Bill Robey and his Committee of Richard Cohen, Lois Cohen, Jackie Armstrong and John Sabato made this Reunion one that will not be soon forgotten. Thank you all. My first official act as President was to ask Bill Robey if he would chair our 61st Reunion in Branson, MO, and he said he would, with the help of Edward Janosik, who lives in Springfield, MO which is about 35 or 40 miles from Branson. I am sure that I will be able to help out as well.

I will never forget when Henry Santos, at our 1989 Reunion at the Pines Resort in South Fallsburg, NY, Said "WE ARE FAMILY." We sure were a family at our 60th Reunion with Sons, Daughters, Widows, Grand Children and Friends. I have made many dear friends in my 35 years of attending our Reunions; this is the reason for attending with my wife, Nadine. The ladies are sure a very important part of our Association. I thank you Ladies ! Thank you Joanie and Beth, Henry and Evie's Daughter and grand daughter for driving them to the reunion.

Sadly, we just received a call from Evie that Henry Golabiecki was admitted to the Veterans Hospital in Buffalo after suffering a stroke. Our prayers are with Henry and family and we pray for his recovery. (Ed's Note: Before we went to press, Jack Collier called to inform us that our friend, Henry Golabiecki passed away on Tuesday, October 25, 2005.)

Nadine and I look forward to greeting everyone next October in our home state of Missouri when we come together in Branson for our 61st Reunion, the Good Lord willing. Until we meet, enjoy your holidays, and ring in a healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Jack A. Collier, Co. C 47th Regt.

61ST REUNION 2006 BRANSON, MISSOURI ~ OCTOBER 6, 7, 8, 2006 HOTEL RADISSON BRANSON

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE ARTICLE - DON'T READ PART AND ASSUME THE REST

After much discussion and investigation, the reunion committee has decided on the weekend of Oct 6, 7, 8, 2006 for our 61st Reunion. These dates were picked to avoid a conflict with the Hebrew High Holy Days, which fall on the two previous weekends. The Radisson Hotel Branson was selected because it has over 400 rooms and a banquet hall that will seat 450, so we won't be pushed to watch the numbers as close as we did this year. It is also fully handicap accessible and has over 20 handicap rooms. Parking for autos in their outdoor lot is free. The Springfield, MO Airport is only about 30 miles away, and rental cars are available at the Airport for those that want them.

The state of Missouri will not recognize our tax exempt numbers from either Illinois or New York. To achieve Tax Exempt status in Missouri, they require copies of our last three years Income Tax Returns and copies of our financial statements for the past three years. Also the names, addresses and Social Security Numbers of every officer and Board of Governors member. We deem this to be excessive, so we will pay sales and room taxes in Missouri.

We are being given a special rate at the hotel of \$90 per night including all taxes. The original offer of \$79 per room was without tax, so the total of \$90 per night includes the taxes. Not bad after all is said and done. The hotel is giving us the special rate 3 days before the reunion and for 3 days after the reunion. If you want to go to Branson to see some of the shows, this is the ideal way to do it at a cost much less than regular hotel rates. You will have to pay for your own shows, as they are not included in the reunion rates.

This reunion is being set up in the same format as the one recently past in 2005. Friday, Oct 6, will be registration day, with a meeting of the Board of Governors in the afternoon and the Reception and Beer Party that evening. Saturday, Oct7, will include our Memorial Service, which is still being worked on. Saturday will also include the Business Meeting of the Association, the Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon, and a meeting of the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary. Saturday night we are planning on dinner and a show on board the Paddlewheel Steamer "Branson Belle", and the details of that are still being worked on. Charter buses will take us from the hotel to the pier and back after the cruise. Sunday, Oct 8, there is nothing scheduled for the morning, but a Board of Governors Meeting will be scheduled in the afternoon. The banquet will be held in the Hotel Ballroom on Sunday evening. Details on this, including menu, later. There will also be breakfasts included on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The final costs sent to us by the hotel were used in figuring the following rates for our members at the 61st Reunion in Branson, Missouri. Further details about individual event costs will be published in later issues of the OCTOFOIL.

Following costs are PER PERSON for each type of room:

SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	QUAD
\$498.00	\$375.00	\$340.00	\$285.00

All reservations must be made through the Reunion Committee. DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT. You will be given my phone number by the hotel reservations clerks and you will have to deal with me anyway, so save yourself the extra phone call. Make your reservations as early as you can. It is always much easier to cancel a reservation than to make one at the last minute.

Further details about the Reunion will be in later OCTOFOILs, and if you have any questions, use my toll free number to contact me.

As I said many times last year, "More later", and this time I can add "See you in Branson." Bill Robey, 15th Engr.
Chairman 2006 Reunion

224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, NY 11580
Editor: Joe Killen
(516) 561 - 7346

Texas and the Greater South West

Hotel will give us the same special rate for 3 days before and 3 days after our reunion for those who want to stay longer in Branson. Please indicate on form if you wish extra days. Cost will be added to above. 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.

Make Checks Payable to:
"The NINTH Inf. Div. Assn."
Send to: 224 North Grove Street
Valley Stream, NY 11580

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.

- Edward C. Shea in loving memory of his father, Edward P. Shea of Co. C - 15th Engr. Bn.
- Harold L. and Mildred Billington in memory of Wilfred M. Thornton, Co. M - 60th Inf.
- The Ladies Auxiliary in memory of every "Old Reliable" who ever wore the Octofoil.
- Charlie E. Hoffmann in memory of his buddies of Co. B, 15th Combat Engineers Battalion.
- Ernest and Dorothy Micka in memory of Robert N. Mandle, Co. B, 15th Combat Engineers.
- Mrs. M. McGinley in fond memory of her husband, Thomas McGinley, Cannon Co., 47th Inf.
- George H. Brown in memory of Robert C. Baldrige of Hdq. Btry. of the 34th F.A. Bn.
- Mrs. A. Mastrangelo in loving memory of her husband, Peter Mastrangelo, Co. B - 47th Inf.
- Charles L. McLhinney in memory of his brother, Walter F. McLhinney and his buddies, Bill Mooty and John "the Barber" Trevelise, all of Co. E - 47th Inf.
- Willie Muldoon in memory of all my friends and buddies from Co. L - 47th Inf.
- Mrs. Lola T. Booth in fond memory of her husband, George W. Booth, Cannon Co.- 39th Inf.
- Emil Langer in memory of his friend, Mary Milligan.
- Bob DeSandy in memory of ALL my departed friends and in honor of those still here.
- Mrs. Rose Richey in loving memory of her husband, Tom L. Richey of Co. H - 60th Inf.
- Ward O. Payne in memory of S/Sgt. Bob Dutton, of Co. F - 39th Inf., KIA Oct. '44.
- Albert C. Ferrante in memory of Bob Mandle of Co. B - 15th Combat Engineers Bn.
- Jack Whiteley in memory of William Leroy Bauer of Co. L - 47th Inf. Medics.
- James C. Dawson in the fond and loving memory of his daughter, Donna Dawson.
- Erwin and Elizabeth Schmidt in memory of Donna Dawson, daughter of Jim Dawson.
- Pete Rice in memory of Bill Mauser, Frank Haines, Sam Robinson and all my other buddies in the 84th Field Artillery.
- Charles L. Van Der Poel in memory of all of his 60th Infantry "Go Devils" buddies.
- Dr. Martin M. Gross in memory all of his departed friends who served in the Ninth.
- John Bonkowski in memory of Father Edward Connors, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, and every departed Ninth Infantry Division man who wore the Octofoil.
- Mrs. Rose Harvilla in fond memory of her husband, Joseph F. Harvilla, B Co. 47th Inf. and a dear departed friend, Helen Sarnocinski, wife of Ed Sarnocinski, also of B Co., 47th Inf.
- William J. Rybka in memory of Sgt. Joe Lesko, Hdqtr. Btry, 84th Field Artillery Bn.
- Willie Muldoon in memory of a good friend, Tom McGinley of Cannon Co., 47th Inf.

THE GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

is pleased to announce that a Holiday Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 16th, 2005 starting at 1:00 PM in the Franklin Square Public Library on Lincoln Street, Franklin Square.

All Chapter members and their Ladies are invited to attend. We ask only that you notify us of your intentions to attend so that we can order a sufficient quantity of food without being wasteful.

Please phone Chapter Secretary Joe Maiale at [redacted] to declare your intentions before December 7th , the 64th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, "the day that will live in infamy."

LADIES CORNER

Dear Ladies,

By now you should all be home and well rested after the 60th Reunion in Washington, D.C. By the way, the one who prayed for my finding my tennis bracelet - it worked. I found it the day after we got home. It was caught in one of the portfolios in my brief case. Thanks to you, and all who helped me look. It was a gift from my oldest daughter and I felt bad to have lost it.

Hope you all got to see some of the sights in Washington. The hotel was lovely, and they went out of their way to be helpful. Bill Robey and the Committee did a good job on the reunion. I myself was disappointed in the Memorial Service. To me that is the highlight of the reunions - to honor the deceased, along with bringing the remaining together to remember the good and bad times of WW II.

The location was perfect; but with no megaphone or sound system, prayers and remembrances could not be done there. The picture taken was great. I could not believe at Arlington Cemetery there were no facilities, not only for us but there were a lot of other people there. Portable toilets should have been available. I wanted to know when the first soldier was buried there and how many are there now. Some other people had some questions also but everything was closed. Perhaps an article can be in the Octofoil some time giving us information.

The Ladies had a nice lunch, with 29 attending. A game was played after the meeting. All enjoyed this. It was voted on for \$500 to be given to the Octofoil for expenses, and \$200 each to 3VA hospitals. One of these was the Philadelphia VA Hospital in memory of Felice Perna who passed away just before the reunion. She was our Ladies Auxiliary Past President.

Thanks again for the 22 Table Gifts donated by the Ladies and quite a few from our men. The monies from the dues, Pollyanna and chances all goes back to the veterans and the men of the 9th Inf. Division. The Auxiliary keeps none of the money.

Don't forget Branson, MO next year, the Columbus Day weekend in October. We would also like more of you ladies to attend our meeting, and don't forget to think about stepping up and take an office this coming year. Lola, Judy and I have done our share. It is time for new ideas from some of you other ladies.

To some of you who asked me how you could get the Octofoil, (Sons and Daughters) all you have to do is make a contribution to the 9th. Send to the men's Treasurer ear marking the check what it is for. No special amount requested. Also you widows who get the paper can do the same, and a donation from those life members would also be appreciated since you pay no dues.

Bless you all and hope you all stay healthy till next time we meet.

Jean Geary, Ladies Auxiliary President

[redacted]

Alice Newhart

[redacted]

In Memory of Henry

At the meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary held during the 60th Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division in Washington, DC, a motion was made and seconded to give a donation of \$200 to the James V. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, Florida in memory of Henry Santos.

Most of us remember that Henry was President of the Association in 1989 and shortly after he and his wife, Eva, returned home after the reunion Henry suffered a stroke and remained for over 6 years at this VA hospital until his death 2 years ago.

Henry was a member of the 15th Engineers and was very active in the Association for many years. We thought this would be a fitting memorial for Henry and a tribute also to Eva who worked right along with him for those many years. Eva still resides in their home in Tampa.

Thank you,
Alice Newhart
(widow of Ernest Newhart, who served with Henry in the 15th Engineers

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

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

- Billy V. Randall

Anti-Tank Co. - 47th Inf.
- Emerson H. Gross

Co. D - 47th Inf.
- Felice Perna

wife of Albert M. Perna

Co. H - 39th Inf.
- Robert N. Mandle

Co. B - 15th Engr. Bn.
- Jack Dunlap

Co. B - 39th Inf.
- William Leroy Bauer

Co. L - 47th Inf.
- Samuel Pollick

Co. H - 47th Inf.
- Miss Donna Dawson

daughter of James Dawson

3rd Bn Hdqr. Co. - 47th Inf.
- Edward P. Shea

Co. C - 15th Engr. Bn.
- Donato N. Iacobucci

Co. D - 47th Inf.
- Margaret Tschupp

Wife of John Tschupp

1st Bn. Hdqrs - 39th Inf.
- Leo Eisenstatt

9th Signal Company
- Joseph Harvilla

Co. B - 47th Inf.
- Michael Wengryn

Co. C & Service Co.

47th Inf.
- Henry (Hank) Golabiecki

Co. C - 47th Inf.

Co. B - 39th Inf.

Remembering Jack Dunlap
Albert J. Baccile



Some words about a devoted American soldier
When Jack Dunlap first came to the "B" Co. 39th Infantry as a 2nd Lt. little did we realize that we were getting a man with exceptional courage and a fervent devotion to duty. Throughout his long career of more than 30 years of service, he exhibited leadership qualities that those who served with him in Co. "B" never forgot.
Jack's time in the service encompassed tours of duty in Korea and Viet Nam where he commanded a Battalion after attaining the rank of Colonel. When he retired, this South Carolina native spent some time in California before moving to Las Vegas for the remaining years of his life. He succumbed in November after a long bout with diabetes. It was always a pleasure to meet with him at reunions and other occasions of visitations.
We of "B" Co. and America have lost a wonderful human being whose service to his country was total and glorious.
Jack.....we who knew you are saddened by your passing.
May you rest in peace.

Co. B - 39th Inf.

Clifford Chew



I received a letter from North Carolina. It was from Colonel Jack Dunlap's nephew. He wrote to let us know Jack Dunlap took a stroke and passed away in November 2004. He found our address in his papers. I'm glad he wrote, 'cause we wouldn't have known about it. Please have it put in the Octofoil so his buddies will know of his passing.
He was a wonderful officer. Thank you.

October 17, 2005

Called you in behalf of my Dear husband Joseph's death Feb. 2, 05. Here's the obituary, if possible put in your next month's Octofoil. Cut out what ever is necessary. Sending a check for the Memorial Fund and could you mention a dear friend of ours, Helen Sarnocinski, departed wife of Ed Sarnocinski, also of Company B, 47th Infantry.
After 64 years since my husband was drafted into the Army from PA, his grandson, Todd Durbin of Dunkirk, MD joined the U.S. Army. He is stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, MO and said he did so as his "Pappy Joe" served 4 years.
Thank You.
Mrs. Rose Harvilla

Co. B - 47th Inf.

Joseph F. Harvilla



Joseph F. Harvilla, age 86, of Cardale, PA, passed away Wednesday, February 2, 2005, in his residence. He was born February 22, 1918, in Thompson 2, Fayette County, PA, He was a Sergeant in Company B, 47th Infantry Regiment who served in the Algerian-French Morocco Campaign, the Tunisian Campaign, the Sicilian Campaign and the Normandy Campaign where he was awarded the Purple Heart. He also wore the American Defense Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the EAME Theatre Service Medal with four Bronze Battle Stars and Overseas Service Bars.

Joseph was retired from United States Steel Corporation's Filbert Shop and was a former employee of Fruehauf Corporation in Uniontown, PA and the Hillman Barge Company of Brownsville, PA. He was a member of the United Mine Workers of America and the V. F. W. Post 47 in Uniontown, PA. He was also an avid bowler and a member of the Fayette County Baseball League.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Rose M. Kula Harvilla, his two daughters and three grandchildren. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in The Church of the Madonna, Cardale on Saturday, February 5, with interment in the Saint Mary Cemetery of Cardale, where Full Military Rites were accorded by members of Uniontown V. F. W. Post 47.

Co. C & Service Co. - 47th Inf.

Daniel Wengryn



I am writing to inform you that my father, Michael Wengryn passed away on June 4, 2005. He served in Company C and Service Company, 47th Infantry, 9th Division from January 1941 to June 1945. He fought in World War II in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre of Operation. During his four and half years of service, he fought in the battles of Safi, French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy and participated in the D-Day landing in June 1944 and the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. The U. S. Army awarded him numerous medals, including the Bronze Star Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and eight Battle Stars. He also received the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. In 1994 he returned to Europe with the 9th Division, where the French government presented Michael and his group with a Citation Medal for the July 1944 liberation of the City of St. Lo, France.

Michael was an active member of the American Legion and the V. F. W. He was also an active member of the Ukrainian American Veterans, where he held numerous posts including National Commander. On the Post 17th level he held the position of Commander, Vice Commander and Chaplin.

Michael leaves his wife, Olga, two sons, Michael R. of Shrewsbury, PA and Daniel S. of Clifton, NJ along with two granddaughters, Marie and Stacie.

My father was very proud of his service and the 9th Division. He enjoyed the 9th Division reunions and the Octofoil newsletter. Please list his name in the "Taps Column". Please let me know if my father's dues are current, I would like to continue to receive the Octofoil.

Sincerely,
Daniel Wengryn

Sons and Daughters
of the 9th Infantry
Division Association

MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION

Name:

Address:

City:

State

Zip

Email address:

Home Phone:

☐

Business Phone:

☐

Work Phone:

☐

CHECK CALLING PREFERENCE

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION MEMBER AFFILIATION:

Name:

Rank:

☐ LIVING

Unit:

☐ DECEASED

Relationship:

Membership fee is only \$5.00 for our Charter first year (2005-2006).

Make checks payable to: Sons & Daughters of the 9th Infantry Division

Mail to:

Mary Cooper

Please send your application by Dec. 31st, 2005 to be included as a Charter Member. (Applications postmarked after this date will still be valid for 2006, but will not be considered as Charter Members of our organization.)

Minutes of the
203rd Board of Governors Meeting

The 203rd meeting of the Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was called to order by President William G. Robey, Jr. at 3:10 PM on Friday, September 23rd in the Executive Meeting Room #317 of the Marriott Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia during our 60th Annual Reunion.

The meeting was attended by 26 members who declared their interest in the proceedings. Board members present were Charles LiBretto, Elmer R. Wagner, Jack R. Blann, Everett N. Tapp, Jack A. Collier, Charles Van der Poel, John Maloney, Dr. Martin M. Gross, John Clouser and George H. Brown. They were assisted in their decisions by Alternate Board Members: Joseph Maiale acting for the absent Board member Albert Lubrano, and Adolph Wadalavage acting for the absent Board member Anthony Varone. The National Officers present were 1st Vice-President Thomas W. Hatton, 3rd Vice President Tapp and Secretary and Treasurer Joseph P. Killen. George H. Brown was requested to act as temporary Judge Advocate in place of the absent Judge Advocate David H. Heller. Emil Langer, Al Ferrante, Ernie Micka, Bob De Sandy, Paul Schumacher, Mike Belmonte, Ed Janosik, James Dawson and Lynn Bowers completed the assembled group.

President Robey requested the body to stand and follow him as he led the group in reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance” to our American flag. Secretary Killen, acting as Chaplin, read a short prayer to ask for Divine Guidance in our deliberations. We remained standing for a moment of silent tribute and remembrance of our 4581 comrades who were lost on the field of battle, and for all of our members and loved ones who have since gone on to join those fallen men.

President Robey then rapped the gavel for the assembly to be seated. President Robey had to be reminded that the meeting had to be conducted according to the Roberts Rules of Order. The Secretary read the minutes of the 202nd Board meeting which took place in Monticello, NY at the last reunion. There were no questions or corrections to be made. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by George H. Brown, and seconded by Elmer R. Wagner. After a voice vote was taken, the motion to accept was adopted. President Robey then called for the Treasurer’s report. Treasurer Killen had previously passed out copies of the report to the members so they could follow his reading of the report. A copy of the report is posted elsewhere in this issue. There were no major questions raised after the full explanation of the report and Charles Van der Poel then made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report. Dr. Martin M. Gross seconded the motion and after a positive voice vote the motion to accept was adopted.

President Robey announced his selection of Board members to chair the committees at the general business meeting scheduled for the following afternoon. They were as follows: Dr. Martin M. Gross to chair the Finance Committee, John Clouser to chair the Nominating Committee, Jack R. Blann to chair the By-Laws Committee, George H. Brown to chair the Newspaper Committee, and Jack A. Collier to chair the Miscellaneous Committee.

Jack R. Blann arose to announce that he would like steps taken to adopt the organization known as “The Sons and Daughters of the Ninth” as an official auxiliary unit of our Association. Without much discussion all present agreed that such a move would be viewed as a plus for the Association.

As Reunion Chairman, William G. Robey reported that not all of the people who have reservations have arrived as yet, but the financial outlook for this reunion remains bright. He will be better able to give a more accurate report two days hence at the next Board meeting at which time he should have all of the numbers necessary.

A discussion of reunion sites for 2006 ensued with the leading candidate being Branson, Mo with Grand Rapids, MI as second and Knoxville, TN a very distant third. Further discussion was tabled for the next Board of Governors meeting Sunday afternoon, when the new Board shall convene.

A motion to adjourn was made by Elmer R. Wagner and seconded by Dr. Martin M. Gross. With all in favor, President Robey brought the proceedings to a close at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph P. Killen, Secretary

Sons & Daughters Organization is Now an Official
Auxiliary of the 9th Infantry Division Association

Sons and Daughters of the 9th Infantry Division Association has been recognized and approved by the association Board of Governors as an official auxiliary. The group existed for several years as an unofficial volunteer organization. It has been quite an exciting few years with a meager start at the Houston reunion, when there were only about 5 members of the “baby boom” generation represented. This year our numbers exceeded 120 people. We strongly believe that as more and more of the “Greatest Generation’s” descendants become increasingly interested in their heritage, they will be eager to help their parents travel to these reunions. As a result, we will continue to see the Sons & Daughters Auxiliary grown even larger.

We have learned that the members of our own generation are also enjoying meeting annually to share our common heritage, and socialize with our new friends and their families. This year, for the first time, we planned a social activity with our generation in mind. On Saturday afternoon, while our parents were having their business meetings, the younger generation held a dance that included professional lessons by a local ballroom dance instructor. About 20 people participated, and almost as many came to watch. It was a great success! All who were there had fun, and we hope that this event will become an annual occurrence. Some members of the Ladies Auxiliary have requested that the scheduling not conflict with the business meetings as they would also like to participate in the dance. We will take that into account for the next reunion.

The Sons and Daughters have traditionally held their social gatherings and business meetings in Mary Cooper’s room after each day’s events. Due to the large number of attendees this year, it appears that we may have to schedule much larger accommodations from now on. At our final gathering on Sunday evening, it was decided that three volunteer members of our generation would serve this first year as co-officers of the Sons and Daughters organization. The members choose Mary Cooper, myself, and one of our newest members William Sauers to fulfill this responsibility. Our task is to prepare the first draft of our official by-laws, as they were discussed by the membership at large. It was also decided that these members would serve as the focal point for any assistance requested by the “PARENT” organization in preparations for the 61st Annual Reunion to be held in Branson, Missouri next September. An official vote was taken by members present to request a \$5.00 donation from each member of our generation desiring membership in the

Minutes of the
204th Board of Governors Meeting

The 204th meeting of the Board of Governors took place on Sunday, September 25, 2005 in Room # 317 in the Marriott Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. President William G. Robey called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM with 26 members present. The members of the Board of Governors attending were: Everett N. Tapp, John Maloney, Charles Van der Poel, Jack A. Collier, John Clouser, Joseph Maiale, Dr. Martin M. Gross, Jack R. Blann, Lawrence Kaufman, William G. Robey, James Dawson and Adolph Wadalavage as an alternate for the absent Anthony Varone. Other members attending were 1st Vice-President Thomas W. Hatton, Secretary and Treasurer Joseph P. Killen, Past Presidents George H. Brown, Elmer R. Wagner, Emil Langer, Bob DeSandy and Michael Belmonte. Morton Wolk, Bob Lewis, John Moore, Ernie Micka, Al Ferrante, Charles McLhinney and Paul Schumacher were also interested parties.

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

Upon a motion made by Dr. Marin M. Gross and seconded by Everett N. Tapp it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous Board meeting ,which had taken place only two days before. Upon a motion made by John Clouser and seconded by Thomas W. Hatton it was voted to dispense with the reading of the Treasurer’s report. Charles Van der Poel made a motion to suspend the regular order of business while we moved to the election of new officers. Jack A. Collier seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ELECTIONS

President Robey called for the Election of Officers to serve for the coming year. Elected were:			
President	Jack A. Collier	1st Vice President	Thomas W. Hatton
Judge Advocate	George H. Brown	2nd Vice President	Everett N. Tapp
Treasurer	Joseph P. Killen	3rd Vice President	Emil Langer
Secretary	Joseph P. Killen		

President William G. Robey thanked the members for their cooperation during the past 16 months and wished the newly elected President Jack A. Collier continued success for the coming year as he turned over the power of authority. After congratulations to both men, Charles Van der Poel moved for the resumption of the regular order of business.

REUNIONS

William G. Robey as Chairman of the 2005 Reunion, now in progress, reported that the Association had taken 148 rooms in the hotel to house 272 members and their families. The trip to the World War II Memorial Monument and the return trip via Arlington National Cemetery involved six buses to carry our 336 people. Robey stated that he has paid \$100,000.00 to the hotel so far and still owes a little more, but the outlook is positive for the Association to receive a check for about \$ 3,000.00. A final accounting will follow.

After Branson, Missouri was chosen as the site for our next reunion, newly elected President Jack A. Collier, as his first official act asked William G. Robey to act as the Reunion chairman for 2006. Robey consented, on condition that he will have help from some of the members living in that state. The dates of the reunion were set for the week-end of October 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2006 to avoid a conflict with religious holy days.

Treasurer Joe Killen asked the Board for permission to surrender a portion of our holdings of Mutual Funds to maintain a balance in our General Fund that will remain above the level necessary to avert the bank’s monthly service charge. After a discussion, John Clouser made a motion, seconded by Joseph Maiale, to allow the Treasurer to surrender holdings up to but not beyond \$ 5000.00. The Board so voted and agreed to this limit. Dr. Martin M. Gross stated that an increase in the yearly dues may help to close the gap between the yearly income and the yearly expenses, and he wanted a dues increase to begin immediately. Dr. Gross was cautioned that he must stay within certain limits, So he made a motion for an increase in the dues that will begin with the beginning of our new fiscal year, July 1st, 2006. William Robey seconded the dues motion and the Board voted for the increase.

There being no further business to come before this body, a motion to adjourn was made by William Robey and seconded by Dr. Martin M. Gross. The proceedings were closed at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Joseph P. Killen, Secretary

Sons and Daughters Auxiliary for the upcoming Charter year. Those making the donation completed information forms and will receive official “charter membership” cards. The cards will be printed to commemorate our first year and distributed at the next reunion. The plan is to hold official elections by the general membership of the “Sons and Daughters Auxiliary” during the reunion to select officers who will serve two year terms.

Would you like to participate in honoring the ‘Greatest Generation’ by joining us and becoming a Charter Member of the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary? If you are a Son, Daughter, Grandchild, Nice, Nephew, or other relative or descendent of a member in good standing of the 9th Infantry Division Association, or a member of the 9th Infantry Division who was killed in action during World War II, you are eligible for membership. To become a Charter Member you must complete the application and send it with \$5.00 to Mary Cooper at the address below by December 31st of 2005. Membership applications will still be welcomed and accepted after this date, but Charter Membership status will be reserved for those who have applied before the deadline.

During the next year, I have made it a priority to establish an Internet Webpage for the auxiliary where our members can see the latest news about planning and events for the upcoming reunion. Have you got a skill that would be helpful to us in accomplishing our goals? Please contact any of the current volunteer officers to let us know. We will be glad to hear from you!

Best wishes for a great year...we look forward to seeing you and your parents at the 61st Annual Reunion in Branson, MO!

John Sabato, [redacted]
Mary Cooper, [redacted]
William Sauers, [redacted]

MINUTES of the 60th REUNION GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting took place during the 60th reunion at Marriott Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia on Saturday, September 24, 2005. At 1:45 PM President William G. Robey addressed the members assembled in the Potomac Room with a call to order. The assembled body stood and made their Pledge of Allegiance to our United States flag and remained standing for a moment of silent tribute to our departed members.

Secretary Joe Killen read the minutes of the 59th meeting held in Monticello, New York and upon a motion made by Dr. Martin M. Gross and seconded by Emil Langer it was voted to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as read and have the Secretary place a copy of the same on file in the Association's records.

Treasurer Joe Killen then gave the Treasurer's report and Bob De Sandy made a motion, seconded by Everett N. Tapp, to accept this report as read. The members voted to accept the report. President Robey then instructed the assembly to break into the various committee groups for a recess of thirty minutes to conduct the necessary committee business. After the agreed interval had passed, he called the general meeting back to order and asked for the report of the Nominating Committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

John Clouser, Chairman of the Nominating committee, named the following members who had served with him on this important committee: Elmer R. Wagner of the Michigan Chapter, Charles LiBretto of the Greater New York Chapter, Gordon Schneider of the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter and member at large Lawrence Kaufman. Clouser thanked them for their service on behalf of the Association. The committee recommended that the out-going Board members be replaced by these members:-

James C. Dawson, Michigan Chapter to replace Elmer R. Wagner,
Joseph Maiale, Greater New York Chapter to replace Charles LiBretto,
Lawrence Kaufman, member at large to replace George H. Brown,
Herb Stern, Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter to replace Pat DeColli.
President Robey called for any other nominations from the floor. After a period, Thomas W. Hatton made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Adolph Wadalavage and so moved. Bob De Sandy made a motion to accept the candidates proposed by the committee and asked the Secretary to cast one ballot as a unanimous vote for their election. Jack Blann seconded this motion and it was so voted and acted upon.

NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

When called upon for his report Chairman of the Newspaper Committee George H. Brown named the following members who had served with him on this committee:- James C. Dawson - Michigan Chapter and Joseph Maiale - Greater New York Chapter. The Committee recommends that to ease the financial burden caused by the production of five issues a year, we should reduce our costs by approximately 20% and limit our Octofoil to four issues a year. They urge the members to send in news of their buddies for the mem-

bership to share.. President Robey thanked George H. Brown and his committee for their report. Upon a motion made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Jim Dawson it was voted to accept the Newspaper Committee's report.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE

Jack A. Collier, Chairman of the Miscellaneous Committee named Bill Nelson and Michael Belmonte as members of his committee. They recommended that serious consideration be given to all future reunion sites to determine that our disabled members have a trouble free access to those facilities. They also discussed the longevity of our Association, and wondered how many more years into the future we shall continue to meet. President Robey thanked Jack Collier and his committee for their efforts with these serious problems. Upon a motion made by Charles Munger and seconded by Charles LiBretto it was voted to accept the report and recommendations of this committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Martin M. Gross, Chairman of the Finance Committee named the following members who served with him on this committee: Everett N. Tapp and Thomas W. Hatton, both of the Michigan Chapter. Treasurer Joe Killen was also present at the committee's discussions to answer any inquiries that could arise pertaining to the budgeted items. The Committee has submitted a budget that has expenses pared to the bone by eliminating the Secretary's salary, the Treasurer's expense allowance, the Editor's expense allowance and the cost of an outside Accountant; all in an effort to reduce our expected year-end deficit. With a projected income of \$9,350 for the coming fiscal year and faced with expenditures of \$11,850, we are expecting to have a deficit of \$2,500 at the year's end. All incomes and costs are educated estimates only, based upon past experiences.

The 2005 -2006 Budgeted Amounts as submitted by the Finance Committee

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Member's Dues	\$ 5,200	Sec. Expense	\$ 800
Donations	4,000	Clerical Exp.	400
CGM Dividends	100	Utilities	800
<u>Bank Interest</u>	<u>50</u>	Supplies & Misc.	350
Total Income	\$ 9,350	Octofoil wreath	150
		Postage	300
		Bank Charges	50
Shortage required to		<u>Octofoil costs</u>	<u>9,000</u>
Balance the Budget	<u>\$2,500</u>	Total Expenses	\$11,850

The Finance Committee recommends that the yearly dues to members should be increased and the Life Members be asked to donate whatever they feel that they can afford. They also ask that an appeal be made through the Octofoil for all readers of our publication to make a donation for the good of the Association. President Robey thanked the Committee for their deliberations regarding our finances and upon a motion made by Bob De Sandy and seconded by Charles Munger it was voted to accept the report and the recommendations of the committee.

BY - LAWS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the By- Laws Committee Jack R. Blann thanked the members who served on this committee. They were Bob De Sandy of the Michigan Chapter, James Dawson of the Michigan Chapter and Charles Van der Poel of the Florida Chapter. The Committee recommends that the By - Laws be altered to allow the iSons and Daughters of the Ninth organization to be officially recognized as an auxiliary unit of our Association. President Robey thanked the Committee for their efforts and on a motion made by John Clouser and seconded by Al Zenka it was voted to accept the By-Laws committee's recommendations. Committee Chairman Blann submitted a revised version of the By-Laws, made by William G. Robey, that must be scrutinized for subtle omissions when compared to the By-Laws that are in use at the present time before these NEW By-Laws can be printed for the general membership's use in a future issue of the Octofoil.

Dr. George Nicklin gave a short talk on the life expectancy of the members of the Association, including himself and assured us that we all still had a very long way to go.

There was no further business to come before the body and on a motion to close made by John Clouser and seconded by Emil Langer the meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

The attendance at this general membership meeting was disappointing when compared to the number of members that were announced as attending this 60th Reunion.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Killen, Secretary

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I Company - 39th Inf. Regt. 2005 Reunion at Montgomery, Ind. (all left to right) seated: Jay Overton, Dan Garvey, Ralph Elkins. standing: Cecil Jenkins, Joe Charvat, Elbert DeWitt, Charles Holsapple.

CHAPTER NEWS

FLORIDA CHAPTER

FLORIDA CHAPTER REUNION UPDATE: Because the OCTOFOIL will reach you after our Chapter Reunion on November 2, 3, 4 & 5, the following is an update as of October 5, 2005. The response of members who sent their ORDER FORM has been much better than in previous years. Wally Richardson and his grand-daughter will be driving in from Franklin, Indiana. Cletus and Lula Winningham will make the trip from Allardt, TN while Ira and Faye Moser will motor in from the little town of King, NC. We applaud these out-of-state members who will make a long trip to join the fun and the camaraderie of our chapter. Details of our reunion will appear in the Nov/Dec issue of the OCTOFOIL.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS: Ira & Faye Moser: Congratulations and Good News!!

A note received from Ira Moser stated that he and Faye were married. They sent in their ORDER FORM stating that they will be in a day earlier as they are driving in from their new address: [REDACTED]

Peter & Jeannie Uhl: Due to Jeannie’s inability to walk any distances, they regret not being able to make the November Chapter Reunion. Peter sent in a donation for the Hospitality Room, however we would prefer to have them with us. Our prayers go for a full recovery so that they can join us next year.

Lester Litvin & Bill MacDonald: expressed their regrets saying that they will not attend our reunion. Snowbird Litvin will not be back in Florida in time while MacDonald will be on a Caribbean cruise during the time of our reunion.

Marty & Rosalyn Gross: This past summer, Marty and Rosalyn, Marty’s daughters Janette and Barbara went on a guided tour of 5 Rivers that included the Cumberland, the Ohio, the Tennessee and the Missouri, which all inter-connect with the Mississippi at some point. Rosalyn said the cruise was informative, the guide was knowledgeable, the food was delicious, the weather was gorgeous, and she enjoyed the company of Marty’s two daughters. Marty highly recommends that cruise to everyone.

Virginia Ruetschi: Virginia is taking care of a very dear sick friend. She will not be able to attend our November Reunion. As reported in the OCTOFOIL, her husband George suffered a fatal heart attack on December 31, 2004. George and Virginia attended many chapter reunions and it was Virginia’s wish to be invited to all future reunions. We will sorely miss Virginia during our meeting and hope she will be able to join us next year. Virginia sent in a donation for the Hospitality Room.

Samuel N. Ledford: Sam lives in Flintstone, NC, recently turned 82 and is in good shape except for a mild case of arthritis in his hands. Sam joined the Communications section of Co. K - 39th Inf. after the end of the African campaign While in England, a malaria attack caused him to miss the landings. He rejoined his unit in time for St. Lo and continued through France and Belgium until he was wounded at Lammersdorf, Germany. Sam regrets that he cannot make our reunion but will try to make it next year. Writer’s note : Thank all of you who either sent notes or a phone call. it makes it somewhat easier to write the Florida Chapter newsletter. Please keep the news coming. Emil J. De Donato



ILLINOIS CHAPTER

We are recuperating from a beautiful trip for the 60th Reunion. We flew to Washington and arrived in a restful condition. e were thankful to the Marriott for furnishing a shuttle service to and from the airport. The Reunion was a success and we were happy to see so many members and their families there. The total number was 400 with 145 of that number representing children and grandchildren.

Our trip to the WW II Memorial was very impressive. Our six buses were escorted by police on motorcycles and after we arrived, it was touching to see the police saluting the men as we drove in. The picture taken at the Memorial of all the Association is beyond any description. We are thankful to have a copy of the group at the Memorial.

Our thanks to Bill Robey for a successful Reunion and appreciate all the work he and his staff did to make it a memorable Reunion for all. The Reception Beer Party on Friday was a success and the beer and snacks flowed freely. The breakfasts included in our package were delicious. The Entertainment on Saturday night by the Capital Steps Group was excellent and very entertaining. The show had us all in stitches all night. The Banquet on Sunday was one of the best ever. The hors d’oeuvres and dinner were delicious. Overall, it was a successful Reunion and again our thanks to bill Robey.

Congratulations to Jack Collier on being elected President of the Association for the next year. It couldn’t happen to a nicer guy. He will do an excellent job.

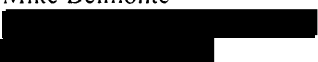
We are looking forward, Lord willing, to attending the Reunion next year in Branson, Missouri. It will be much closer for us.

We missed some of our Illinois members who were not able o attend. Dave Heller does not do any more traveling and is now in a Rehabilitation living quarter. He’s coming along as well as can be expected with DV’s help. We also missed Gordon Anderson who now lives in Tennessee. John and Helen Clouser were at the Reunion and it was good seeing them again. Spoke to Lorraine Clark,(widow of Paul). She is in a nursing home and is doing well. She has some trouble with her legs but has a Rascal scooter to get around in. She keeps herself busy with her crafts, and misses coming to the Reunions.

We enjoyed being with the Michigan Chapter members as well as many of the couples who used to come to our Angola Outstate Meetings. Only Rishel and Judy were there and we missed Agnes Speers who was unable to attend. We found time to play the SYN Game but missed Agnes and Mae Jones.

Guess that’s it for Illinois News. The Holidays will soon be here and we wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving and the Happiest and Healthiest of Holidays.

Sincerely,
Mike Belmonte



GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

After a summer hiatus eight chapter members met at the Franklin Square Public Library, Franklin Square, L. I., NY on Friday, September 16, 2005. First VP Tony Varone opened the meeting at 1:20 PM in the absence of President Ed Leddy who was recently hospitalized. Varone led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and chapter Chaplin Joe Killen gave the convocation, followed by a moment of silence for our departed members. An empty chair was set aside as a reminder of our men who were missing in action or who had not returned after being taken as prisoners of war.

Minutes were read but the monthly financial report was not available. Discussion was opened up regarding overseas caps for the chapter functions. Treasurer Joe Maiale would check with his American Legion post for a supplier.

We received notice of the passing of Al Perna’s wife Felice. The chapter sends heart-felt condolences to Al and his family. Tony Varone informed us that wife Viola was to have a full mastectomy following a recent lumpectomy. We all wish Viola a successful and better future in spite of her ordeal. We also hope for Ed Leddy’s quick recovery.

Chapter representatives were picked for the Washington Reunion Committees. They are: Nominating - Charles LiBretto, Newspaper - Joe Maiale, Miscellaneous - Adolph Wadalavage. Joe Maiale was also chosen as a delegate for the Board of Governors to replace the outgoing delegate Charles LiBretto. Adolph Wadalavage was chosen to be an alternate Board member.

After some general conversation about the Ninth’s experiences during the war the meeting was adjourned at 3 PM. Also attending not mentioned above: Joe Charvat, Anton Dietrich, Ed Harris and John Tschupp. Next meeting will be on October 21, 1 PM at the same Franklin Square command post.

Now is the time to pay your dues if you haven’t done so. \$10 for one year, \$25 for three years and \$75 for a Lifetime Membership. Checks should be made payable to: The NY Area Chapter, 9th Infantry division Assn. and mailed to Treasurer Joe Maiale at

[REDACTED]
Marv Levy, Co A - 60th Inf.



NINTH RECON

There aren’t many Recon men left after we lost one of the originals, Nick “Cappy” Capobianco last April. He kept “The Nomads” together after the war and is really missed. We were in touch with Dottie who underwent surgery recently, and we’re pleased to hear that she has recovered nicely. Our best wishes go out to her and the family.

We missed the annual Michigan Chapter Picnic at Mary Doering’s place in July. Just couldn’t make that journey in my condition, and then Rose came up with problems of her own. She was going through all kinds of tests on her bad back and painful hip. We’re hoping that everything will be a lot better by December so that we’ll be able to make the Christmas Party in Frankenmuth, MI.

It was sad to hear about General Westmoreland’s passing. There was a difference of opinion about the change of by-laws issue a few years ago. Consequently he decided to disown us. Perhaps he may have had second thoughts as time went by but that’s something that we’ll never know. May he rest in peace.

On a beautiful Sunday morning in September, Rose and I were enjoying our breakfast at one of our usual restaurants in Clinton Township, MI. We were mentioning our fine friends from the Michigan Chapter, Bill and Susie DeBruyne who we’ve met there a couple of times before. Then as we were leaving, what a pleasant surprise to see them seated with their guests from Ohio. Despite their health problems Bill and Susie looked fine, and it made our day to see them enjoying the occasion.

Haven’t heard from Danny and Marie Quinn lately so we gave them a call. Marie told us that Danny is in a convalescent home where he is getting proper care and is kept in good spirits with their activities. She visits him often and times goes by. We are grateful for all of their years of dedicated work in our Association.

We were getting restless when the 60th Convention time rolled along. It was sad to miss this Reunion, which we knew from the beginning that we wouldn’t be able to attend. Our thoughts were with you and we pray that we will be able to make the next one.

So it was with the Memorial Weekend in Worcester, MA. Herb Olsen should be commended for keeping this great tradition going that Father Connors started even before our Association’s first Reunion took place. There are many wonderful memories that we have gathered through the years and we pray that we haven’t seen the last of them.

We hope that everyone attending the 60th Annual Convention had a grand time. To all the newly elected Officers we send our congratulations and best wishes. We again express our appreciation to Joe Killen, our Secretary and Editor for his outstanding work and dedication that we hope to enjoy for many years to come.

A call from Henry and Theresa Shimkoski in Worcester, MA informed us that it was a “double reunion” for them this September. After a very nice Ninth Infantry Division Convention, an hour’s drive took them to their family get-together in Virginia that lasted the remainder of the month. They came home on the 2nd of October with wonderful memories that will remain forever. Like most of us, they too have their health problems, but we’re happy for them that they can still get around. Now they are looking forward to that Memorial Weekend right in their own hometown.

Our deep concern goes out to our Association members who were affected by the devastating hurricanes. We can only hope that they were spared injury and property losses from those natural disasters.

We’re sending our donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Father Edward Connors, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, and every departed Ninth Infantry Division man who wore the Octofoil.

Respectfully,
John Bonkowski



MAIL CALL

TO: Jean Geary, Judy Goldsmith, Lola Booth, Ellen Schumaker and all of the other wonderful ladies who are members of our Ladies Auxiliary,

We wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank you for your generous and continuing support of our communication link, "The OCTOFOIL". Your display of faith and support in the Association's endeavors to overcome the financial hurdles that we face are most gratifying. You silently cheer us on to reach our goals, and that pat on the back does not go unnoticed. The Association has not always publicly acknowledged the boost that you gave us in the past. For those oversights the Association is truly sorry.

Who can say how much longer our journey along this "Road of Life" will be? But one thing is sure, the trip is more pleasant with the female companionship provided by the Ladies Auxiliary to occasionally get us men back on the right track when we, at times, seem to stray from our duties. Without your support, Lord knows where we would be at this time? Thank you all for that, too.

Sincerely grateful,
The entire Membership of The NINTH Infantry Division Association, Inc.



"Yer lucky. Yer learnin' a trade"

A REMINDER

The bank where our funds are held is very "testy" when it comes to checks.
Please make ALL CHECKS payable to: "The NINTH Inf. Div. Assn."

Co. G 39th Inf.

Billy L. Aillsbrook,

It was great receiving the July OCTOFOIL. I always look forward to reading information about the Ninth Division.

I always scan the pages looking for some word from someone that served in Company G, Third Platoon of the 39th Infantry of the Ninth Division.

I was assigned to the Ninth Division in July of 44 but they were in a fierce battle at the Falaise Gap in France; consequently I did not join them till around August 2, 1944.

I was wounded in the Hurtgen Forest in October '44, rejoined G Company in December. Came down with a case of frozen feet in February when the Ninth was driving for the Rhine River.

Looking forward to seeing a letter from someone that served in G Company, 39th Infantry of the Ninth during that time cited above!!!

The Best to All,
Billy L. Aillsbrook

Co. K - 47th Inf.

Bernie Walker

Thanks for the ten issues of the Octofoil. I was able to find the answers to a few questions I had about who and what, etc. in my WWII travels.

I found out that the Ninth Division played a big part in taking Cherbourg, St. Lo, and the Cherbourg Peninsula. We landed (it must have been at Utah) on a Normandy beach in October, 1944. We crossed the beach and walked up to the high ground, boarded trucks and rode toward LeMans. On the way we passed through St. Lo, which was nothing more than a pile of rubble! At LeMans, we boarded 40 and 8's and got railroaded to Liege, Belgium. We were trucked to the 47th Infantry location at Schevenhutte, just inside the German border. One of your correspondents mentioned Company K and Frenzerberg Castle, a place I very clearly remember. Being weapons platoon members, myself a mortar gunner, we were in foxholes at the edge of high ground. To our right front, our right and right rear, the area was bare and gently sloped away from us. We were told that a German tank had poked its 88(?) in an opening in a GI occupied barn and fired. Shells were bursting around us and in the trees above. They were firing machine guns at us also. Other than that we really didn't know what was going on at the castle.

Another writer mentioned Monschau where he was at the Bulge. That's where we were too, and I was at Division Rear at the time, when they mobilized everybody, including cooks and clerks. The enemy didn't come through that area, at least not near us. Later on we moved up to Remagen, and were there when the bridge collapsed on March 17, 1945.

As I wrote in my own story about WWII, I played a very minor part in that war, but I have enormous respect for those who spent many months, even years, at the front, respect for those who came back and those who didn't.

You deserve a lot of credit for the time and effort you put into the Octofoil. Thanks again.
Bernie Walker

Old Geezers

Hdqtrs. Battery - 26th F.A. Bn

William D. Rolar

"Old Geezers" (slang for an old man) are easy to recognize:

At sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, OLD GEEZERS hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment; they know the words and believe in them! OLD GEEZERS remember World War I, the Great Depression, the "Dust Bowl of the 1930's," Stalin, World War II, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mamie Eisenhower, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle, Omar Bradley, George Patton, George Marshall, King George VI and his wife Queen Elizabeth. Harry S. Truman, Bess Truman, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Douglas MacArthur, Iwo Jima, the Battle of the Bulge and the Ardennes, the Normandy Invasion and D-Day, Hitler and the Holocaust, V.E. Day, the Atomic Bomb and Japan's surrender. OLD GEEZERS are quietly proud of the FACT THAT THEY HELPED SAVE THE WORLD!

OLD GEEZERS remember the world without traffic jams, expressways and arrogant, speeding drivers. OLD GEEZERS remember the world without shopping malls, the Atomic Age, the Korean War, the Cold War, Khrushchev, the Iron Curtain, the Jet Age, Airplane Disasters, the Moon Landing, Vietnam, global epidemics, Saddam Hussein, terrorism, illegal drug use, and rampant crime, murder and suicide rates. OLD GEEZERS remember a world when young people had respect for adults, laws, morality, religious faith and hard work! OLD GEEZERS remember a world full of hope, conviction, loyalty and determination! OLD GEEZERS understand why Memorial Day and Veteran's Day should be observed with sacred reverence.

If you bump into an OLD GEEZER on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass an OLD GEEZER on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. OLD GEEZERS trust strangers and are courtly, courteous and respectful to women. OLD GEEZERS hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection. OLD GEEZERS get embarrassed if someone cur0ses in front of women and children. OLD GEEZERS don't like any filth on television or in movies. OLD GEEZERS, Like Thomas Jefferson, know that the United States Constitution stands for FREEDOM OF RELIGION, NOT FREEDOM "FROM" RELIGION! OLD GEEZERS have moral courage and know the extraordinary value of a life lived with honesty, impeccable morality, marital commitment and religious devotion. OLD GEEZERS seldom brag unless it is about their children or grandchildren.

The OLD GEEZERS are the ones who know that our great country is protected, not by the politicians or police, but by the brave, devoted, courageous and gallant young men and women in our armed forces who are proudly serving their country. OLD GEEZERS understand why the American Flag is a sacred symbol of our country's freedom that must be treated with the highest respect.

This country needs OLD GEEZERS with their decent, mature, honorable and God-fearing values. We need them now more than ever. THANK GOD for OLD GEEZERS!

Pass this on to all the OLD GEEZERS you know who are familiar with hard and honest work, respect for the elderly and genuine love for and devotion to God, country and family. Pass this on, also, to anyone you know who may not understand those things that an OLD GEEZER remembers, believes and represents!!!

What will we do when the time arrives when there are NO OLD GEEZERS Left in this country?!!??

William D. Rolar

THE OCTOFOIL

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