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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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### The Octofoil, January/February/March 2006

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 LXI Number 1 Jan.-Feb.-Mar., 2006

## NINTH RECON

The Holidays were very special for Rose and me. On Christmas Eve we became great-grandparents for the second time. A beautiful baby girl was born to our grandson Craig and his lovely wife Sharon. A precious gift from Heaven.

Among all those Christmas cards that we received, one as usual came from Jennie Urban. Her note mentioned an enjoyable visit from daughter Jennifer and two grandsons. Had Matty still been with us, he'd really been proud of those two toddlers.

Dottie Capobianco sent us a note after the Holidays that it was a sad Christmas without Nick, and found it hard to write those cards this year. She expressed her appreciation for all the kindness and thoughtfulness during his illness. It meant so much.

The Octofoil came in January and our ranks are getting thinner. Among our Departed Comrades we lost John H. Maloney (9th MP ) and David "Doc" Heller( 60th Inf.)

We first met John and Martina Maloney at one of those Memorials at Worcester, MA many years ago. As fate would have it, we sat together at the last Memorial that rose and I attended. Sharing that Luncheon table with us were Henry and Theresa Shimkoski along with Charles and Mary McLhinney. Little did we know what the following year would bring.

My earliest recollection of Dave Heller was when he served as our National President at the 1987 Reunion in Hyannis, MA. Soon after, he became our Judge Advocate.

Among the fine tributes in the Octofoil there was one from Beth Wolff in memory of her beloved grandfather, Henry J. Golabiecki. We were pleased that he had a chance to see Matt Urban's Monument for which he and her grandmother Evelyn were among the many contributors. There were far too many Donors that didn't live to see that Monument, but their generosity will always be remembered.

Recently, while going through my collection of archives, I found some old correspondence from a very good Recon buddy, Robert Whalen. He came into the Ninth as a Replacement after the War was over, and the high point men were leaving for home. He just missed out on being eligible to join the newly formed Association in Ingolstadt, Germany. But he never forgot how well he was accepted by the fellows in the Recon. Through the years he often mentioned how I would requisition a Jeep every Sunday morning, and the four of us Catholics would be on our way to attend Mass. When the weather was bad during our Occupation in Wasserburg, Germany, I'd get one of those winterized Jeeps to protect us from the elements. During the winter, the roads in the Bavarian Alps would become very treacherous. Our Guardian Angels must have looked after us because we always made it back safely.

We lost contact in the late 90's, and I decided to locate Bob no matter how long it would take. After some tracing we learned that he died in 2002, but we found the whereabouts of his widow Leota, a retired school teacher. We talked on the phone and she remembered our correspondence and those visits in Belleville, MI when our children were small. She told us that Bob never forgot his Recon buddies, and that he often mentioned Gordon Anderson. We were sorry to hear that Bob really suffered with cancer before he passed away. We promised Leota, who now lives in Ypsilanti, MI, that Rose and I would visit her first chance we had. We would also contact Gordon Anderson.

Gordon remembered Bob well and was sorry to hear about his passing. Since Gordon doesn't drive anymore he hasn't seen our other buddy, Charlie Neal, who also lives in Tennessee. It's difficult for Charlie to get around because he's devoted to taking care of his wife Linda, in her illness. During our conversation, Gordon was pleased that the Michigan Chapter was doing well. He enjoyed those Illinois-Michigan Meetings in years gone bye. Sends his best regards to all, especially Lucille Andrews and the DeBruynes', Bill and Suzie.

Respectfully,  
John Bonkowski



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## An ALERT for ALL MEMBERS DUES PAYERS LISTEN UP !!

When the next fiscal year starts on July 1, 2006, that is the day that your dues will be increased. That announcement was made after the recommendation of the Finance Committee was accepted at the General Meeting held on September 24, 2005 during the 60th Reunion. The matter was raised again at the Board of Governor's 204th meeting held the following afternoon. A motion for an increase in dues was made, seconded and passed by the Board. These events were noted and printed in the Volume LX, Number 4 Octofoil issue of Aug. - Sept. - Oct. 2005.

### PAY YOUR DUES NOW

Dues payments in advance of the dues increase will be honored at the existing low price. At present, we have a member paid up to 2011, and others paid to 2010. Smart men.

The organization is not asking for your blood this time; only for a little money, and not too much of that either. It's time to renew that "esprit de corps" in the old outfit.

### PAY YOUR DUES NOW

Former President John J. Clouser reminded me that many years ago, when our income was declining and we were spending more than we were taking in, we made a budget closer to our revenues or in a few years we would cease to exist. During those intervening years we had separate funds that we could call upon to bolster up our General Fund when it was needed. We have reached a point where those separate funds have been depleted and closed for more than three years.

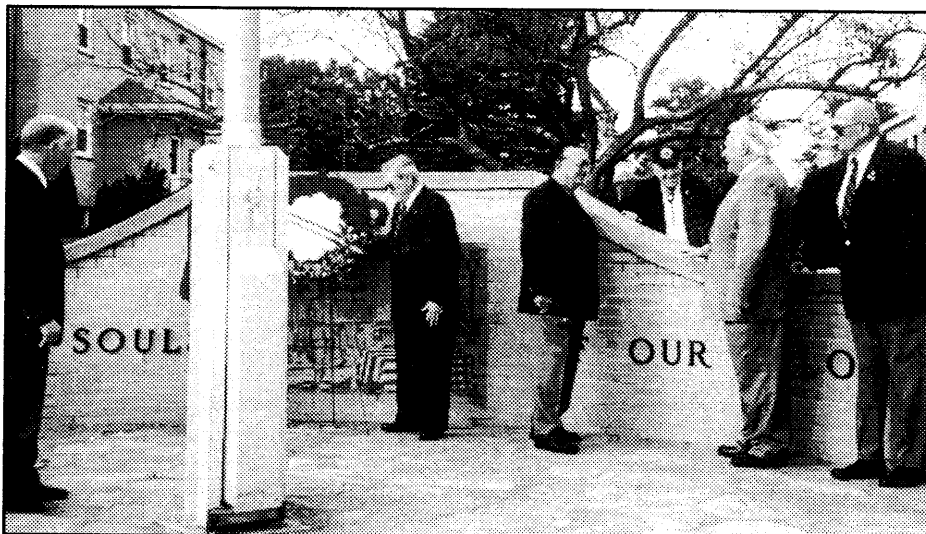
### PAY YOUR DUES NOW

Has anyone noticed that the last four budgets showed an estimated annual shortage that was a few thousand dollars less than the projected expected income for each corresponding fiscal year? This 2005-2006 fiscal year when I asked where and how the \$2500 shortage required to balance the budget was to be obtained, thankfully, no member of the Finance Committee offered an easy, glib answer. Our budget is pared down to the bone, everything that could be trimmed or eliminated was trimmed or eliminated. The last Newspaper Committee recommended that we limit our Octofoil to only four issues a year in order to reduce costs approximately 20%. We are following that recommendation.

### PAY YOUR DUES NOW

I have made a comparison study of the month by month dues and donation receipts over the most recent past four years. Make no mistake, our dues paying members have been, ever so slowly departing from our midst. The people who have donated in the past are also on the wane. The facts and the figures show a bleak outlook for our future.

## FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED



Herb Olsen, Chas. McIlhenny, Jack Blann, Al Farese (behind wall), Joe Killen, George H. Brown. Worcester, Mass., Oct., 2002.



# 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.*

Mrs. Genevieve Kaufman in memory of her beloved husband, Col. Abraham S. Kaufman of Company C - 9th Medical Bn. and her precious son, Robert Kaufman.

Mrs. Joy Banks Combs in fond memory of her brother, S/Sgt. Cecil Banks, Co. A - 60th Inf. reported Missing In Action, 12 October 1944.

Mrs. Ersele J. Brasell in memory of her husband, John A. Brasell, Battery C - 34th F. A. Bn.

Francis H. Wolman in fond memory of his wife, Florence Wolman.

Mrs. J.C. Dawson in memory of her husband, J. C. Dawson of Company I - 39th Inf.

John H. Losnes in memory of Robert F. Gordon, Company L - 39th Inf.

Henry "Hank" Downs in memory of "my best friend", Sam Robinson, Bttry B - 84th F.A. Bn.

Michael Wengryn Family in memory of Michael Wengryn, Co. C & Service Co. - 47th Inf.

Larry McLaughlin in memory of his friend, John H. Maloney, 9th M. P. Platoon.

Gerry Bryant in memory of his fellow M. P. John H. Maloney, 9th M. P. Platoon.

Adolph Wadalavage in memory of his buddy, John H. Maloney, 9th M. P. Platoon.

George H. Brown in memory of John H. Maloney and David "Doc" Heller.

Charles & Mary McLhinney in memory of John H. Maloney and David "Doc" Heller.

The Illinois Chapter in memory of David "Doc" Heller, 1st Bn.- 60th Inf. Med. Detachment.

Robert & Jo Pauli in memory of David "Doc" Heller.

Bill Crain in memory of David "Doc" Heller, long time Judge Advocate of the Assn.

William G. Sauers in fond memory of his father, S/Sgt. William L. Sauers, Co. C - 60th Inf. Killed In Action 16 March 1945.

Monty McDaniel in memory of Robert O. Rothrock & Sam D. Just, both of Co. G - 60th Inf.

Sam Trapasso in memory of his many buddies from Company G - 60th Inf.

Leo C. "Pat" Williamson in memory of all the 60th Inf. men who are leaving for Heaven.

Tom Elliott in memory of his fellow M. P.'s, John H. Maloney and Jake Nailor.

Mrs. Lola T. Booth in memory of William Doty and her husband, George W. Booth.

Everett N. Tapp in memory of William Doty, John H. Maloney and David "Doc" Heller.

The Illinois Chapter in memory of Bill Hennemuth, 1st Bn. Hq. Co. - 60th Inf.

John J. Clouser in memory of William Hennemuth, 1st Bn. Hq. Co. - 60th Inf.

Glen A. Eldridge in memory of his many buddies of Company D - 60th Inf.

John Bonkowski in memory of John H. Maloney, 9th MP; Matt Urban, 60th Inf.;

Nick "Cappy" Capobianco, 9th Recon; Henry Golabiecki, Co. C - 47th Inf.;

David "Doc" Heller, 1st Bn Hq Co. - 60th Inf; "Bob" Whalen, 9th Recon.

William J. Rybka in HONOR of Mrs. Anna Lesko, widow of Joe Lesko, Hq. Btry 84th F.A. Bn.



Herb Olsen, Jack Blann, Father Bill Champlin, Al (Church Sexton), Joe Killen. Worchester, Mass., Oct. 19, 2003.

# LADIES CORNER

## Ladies Auxiliary of the Ninth,

There was no report in the last OCTOFOIL because the information got lost in the mail. Thanks to you who dropped me a line after the Washington reunion. Not necessary but kind of you to do this. I enjoy hearing from any of you.

Sent a letter about the Branson reunion to the Auxiliary members so I know what to do for the meeting. 'Till this newsletter gets to you, and for you to respond, it would be late for me to do much about tickets.

If we go to the show, will you still want to hold a Pollyanna at our meeting. I put this in the letter I sent (the meeting) which would have to be on Sunday; and don't forget it's nomination of new officers at this time. I know most like doing this and it also raises monies toward the donations we make. Speaking of donations, don't forget a name of a hospital at our meeting in Branson. Info to follow later as to what was decided about the Pollyanna exchange.

## All checks must be made payable to Jean Geary if we go to the show.

I received a very nice thank you letter from the Philadelphia VA Hospital, and from Felice Perna's family about the donation we made in her honor. They will be read at the meeting.

Thinking about the reunion, now is the time to start making or getting something for the raffle table. Perhaps while you are out, you will see something we could raffle off, or if you are artistically inclined, something you can make. We had some beautiful items donated this past reunion, and many thanks to you who made items or took the time to purchase one. (This also applies to you men who take the time to make items.) From the monies made we donated \$200.00 each to three VA Hospitals, and gave \$500.00 to help support the OCTOFOIL.

Henry and I are going to Eureka Springs, Arkansas after the reunion to see the "Great Passion" play. This is held outdoors. It's not that far from Branson, right on the border of Missouri and Arkansas. We also want to go to Silver Dollar City, which is on the way to Eureka Springs. There is lots to see and do in Branson and around there. Check it out and make it a vacation. These are two of the things we wanted to do when we were there for 10 days, but did not have time to fit into the schedule. I was told to book early because October is their busy season. People come to see the changing colors of the leaves.

Take care and stay healthy so we can all meet once again in Branson.

Jean Geary, Ladies Auxiliary President

[Redacted signature]

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## Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer

Lola T. Booth

621 South Olive Street

Jefferson, IA 50129

Enclosed please find check for a Memorial Fund donation for Wm. Doty, who passed away recently. Mr. Doty was a past Board of Governors member.

Also, I want to thank all those who gave items for our Auxiliary raffle and to those who bought tickets. A special thank you to those who give items every year.

The reunion in Washington, DC was special to me as I wanted so badly to see the World War II Memorial and thought I probably would never get the chance.

Hope to see you all in Branson,

Lola T. Booth

(George W. Booth,

Cannon Co. - 39th Inf.)

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## Co. C - 9th Medical Bn.

Mrs. Genevieve Kaufman

[Redacted signature]

I am enclosing my check to the memorial fund in memory of my beloved husband, Col. Abraham S. Kaufman, M. D. of the 9th Medical Bn., Co - C, and in memory of my precious son, Robert Kaufman.

My husband was very proud of serving in the 9th Infantry Division, and was in all the campaigns from 1941 to the end of the war. My husband also wrote the history of the 9th Infantry Division's campaigns and maps.

I am very proud of the 9th Inf. Div. and all the wonderful men who are all so brave.

Sincerely

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

Edwin Lusk  
3rd Bn. Hq. Co. - 60th Inf.

Daniel J. Doyle  
Co. C - 47th Inf.

Joseph Scardilli  
Co. A - 47th Inf.

Robert I. Rudy  
Co. B - 39th Inf.

William Hennemuth  
1st Bn. Hq. Co. - 60th Inf.

Norton L. Cross  
Co. B - 15th Engineers Bn.

William H. Edmond  
Co. B - 60th Inf.

Robert O. Rothrock  
Co. G - 60th Inf.

Mrs. Florence Wolman  
wife of F. H. Wolman  
Co. C - 899 T.D. Bn.

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

15 March 2006  
"The Ides of March"

My good friend, Ed Lusk, LTC (Retired) of 131 Auburn Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 - 3805, made a final "Pass-in-Review" this morning in Birmingham. He was formerly in the 3rd Bn. Hq. Company, 60th Infantry and a faithful member of the 9th Division Association.

He and I celebrated our November birth dates at his home in 1965; Ed on Nov.5th and Wyett on Nov.8th.

About ten miles East of Maknassey, Tunisia on April 8, 1943, I was in the impact area of an artillery barrage. I collected 15 shrapnel holes and was knocked unconscious. Ed was my lifesaver. He got the medics to me in time. I believe you see my respect for Ed.

See you in Branson,  
Wyett

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Co. A - 47th Inf.  
"Larry" McLaughlin

Feb. 20, 2006

Enclosed find check for Memorial Fund in memory of John Maloney - 9th M.P.s.

He was a good loyal member of the 9th Infantry Division.  
I shall miss him at our reunions at Worcester, MA.

Best Regards,  
Larry McLaughlin

P.S. Your report in last "OCTOFOIL" re: Worcester Memorial Mass and reunion was well done !!

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Co. G - 60th Inf.  
Paul Liggett

I am writing to inform you of the death of my uncle, Robert Rothrock of Lewiston, PA. He died on Jan. 27, 2006 of a heart attack while in the Lewiston Hospital. Born Nov. 17, 1918 in Philipsburg, PA. Center county, He was 87 years old.

Robert received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star Medal while serving with Co. G, 60th Infantry in campaigns in North Africa and Germany.

After WW II he worked as a self employed electrical contractor for 40 plus years in the Mifflin and Juniata County areas. Burial was in the Juniata Memorial Gardens.

An avid reader, he enjoyed his Octofoil and the local newspapers.  
With us he will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,  
Paul Liggett

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9th Infantry Division M.P. Platoon  
Adolph J. Wadalavage

Joe,

Here is an open letter to Bill Robey, about the last reunion. I hope you see fit to put it in the next "OCTOFOIL". If you use it, make any corrections you see fit. ( The following undated letter was delivered by USPS to my door Jan. 23, 2006. JPK )

Dear Bill Robey:

Another great reunion has come and gone, just great to see so many of our former Army buddies still able to attend, especially when you look at the picture taken at the World War II Memorial. It must have made you feel proud to see so many attend after sixty great reunions and, as you know by the names listed in the booklet we received at the reunion, they came from all parts of the States. So a hearty handshake for a job well done. Little do people that have never worked putting a reunion together know how much time and patience it takes to get it done.

As you know, this was our sixtieth reunion and, after the reunion, ever so many of us grudgingly asked why no Memorial Service? You should know that this is the reason that so many a lad attends these reunions. As you know, a loss of 4581 fellow soldiers during our time overseas is not easily forgotten. An example, at many a reunion when the Memorial service is being held, you will see many a lad wipe away a tear. That tells you something. And if you asked those attending the reunion's Memorial service to send in a picture or two you will find the largest attendance, excluding the dinner of course.

Bill, when you look back at the last reunion, I'll have to say you owe the 9th Division Association an apology for what you passed up on your program. After sixty years, this was the first reunion with no Memorial Service. Surely, the Association must have been doing something right for all of those years. Take a look at your membership card and read the extract of certification. You may not realize how many fellow members you offended.

Being that you are the Chair for our 61st Reunion, please keep in mind there must be a Memorial Service, or you will see a shrinking attendance.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Adolph J. Wadalavage

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Co. C - 60th Inf.  
Thomas W. Hatton

2 - 14 - 2006

Hi Joe,

Thanks for the update on the checks.

I had a unhappy phone call from Bill Robey about your new article about the memorial.

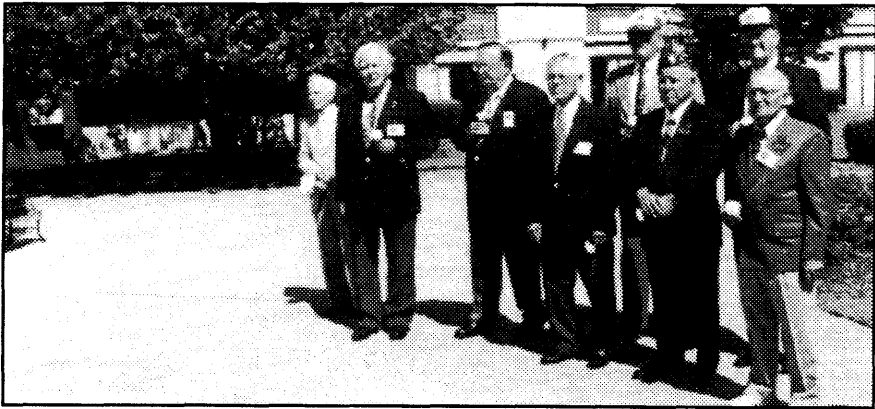
You can expect a letter from him.

I know a lot of people were unhappy that we did not have a formal Memorial Service. I hope this won't cause any problem.

Keep up the good work.

All the best,  
Tom

Four Points Hotel Courtyard, Hyannis, Mass., 9th Dev. Reunion,  
May 23-25, 1999 - Memorial Service



Front row, L to R: Ron Murphy, Joe Killen, Jack Blann, Frank Haines, MikeBelmonte, Al Perna. Back row: George Brown, Tom Hatton.



Bugler, Lou Columbo playing "Taps". L to R: Ron Murphy, Pete Radichio, Joe Killen, Mike Belmonte.



An envelope containing the following two messages was delivered by the regular post-man to my door on Saturday, March 25, 2006. The cancellation showed that it had entered the “system” 21 March 2006. (Our deadline was a well advertised March 20th.) I have no intention of getting into a “dissing” contest with William G. Robey at this time. I shall be content to be judged by a jury of my peers, our readers. I ask that you form an opinion.

Thank you.  
Joe Killen, Editor

20 Mar 2006  
Joe Killen

Joe:  
Sorry this is a couple of days late, but we were waiting for information from the Springfield Airport which did not get to us yet.  
I sent a copy of the attached article to Jack Collier, and as President of the Association, he has approved it as written.  
Be sure that this article goes into the Octofoil exactly as written. No changes, deletions or additions to the article.  
Also, consider this letter as your official appointment to conduct the Memorial Service at Branson for our 61st Reunion.

More Later.  
Bill Robey,  
Gen Chmn 61st Reunion 2006

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**61st REUNION 2006  
BRANSON, MISSOURI**

Before I get to more details about the 61st Reunion, I need to speak about the 60th Reunion held in Arlington, VA in 2005.  
The editor of the Octofoil made a statement in his report on the Worcester Memorial Service that is not true. He stated that the Worcester Memorial was **“The only MEMORIAL SERVICE held for the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION in the year 2005.”** This statement is not only false, but our editor seems to forget that he attended the Memorial Service held at the World War II memorial in Washington, DC, during our 60th Reunion.  
There is one other thing that many people have forgotten about this memorial service. The noise level was much higher than we anticipated, and the Rev. Jeannie Higgins, who was to conduct the last part of the memorial service told us that the noise level was so high that no one would be able to hear her speak. We, the reunion committee, decided that we would postpone the rest of the service and include it at the beginning of our Banquet on Sunday night. This was done, and Jeannie offered the prayers and a brief talk to begin our banquet and to finish the memorial service. The statement about the only memorial service also makes a derogatory statement about Rev Jeannie Higgins’s part of our memorial service. We did the memorial service at the World War II memorial instead of the ususal indoor service conducted at previous reunions. **There is nothing set in stone to say that we have to do the same thing every year, and in our case, since we are World War II veterans, the Memorial Service being held at the World War II memorial made perfect sense.**  
Many of the members that I have spoken to about this seem of the opinion that our editor should apologize to the Reunion Committee, to Rev Jeannie Higgins, and also to the entire membership of the Ninth Infantry Division Association for his remarks and insults. It is not the job of the editor to use the Octofoil to express his personal dislikes at the expense of all the membership. If he did not like the way things were done, he should have volunteered to help instead of this type of complaining. But like many people in all kinds of organizations, the complaining is easier than pitching in to help. So to make sure that he has no room to complain about the memorial service for the 61st Reunion, as General Chairman of the 61st Reunion, I hereby appoint Joe Killen to conduct the Memorial Service for us in Branson.  
Enough said about that, and now to further details about the 61st Reunion. Further along in this article there is some additional information about Airline Schedules, Car Rental Offices, directions to Branson, and other things concerned with our 61st Reunion.

First: As most everyone knows by now, we are losing one edition of the Octofoil by cutting back to just four issues a year instead of five as in previous years. In order for more members to have a little extra time to get their reservations in to me, I have, with the agreement of the Hotel, **extended** the date for deposits to be sent in . Instead of April 15th as stated in the previous news, the deadline is being extended to **June 15, 2006**. There is NO change in the final payment date, as that still remains at **August 15, 2006**. Remember that if your final payment is not received by August 15, then your deposit will be refunded and your reservation cancelled.  
Second: Directions to Branson— if you are driving, it is very simple. From the east, come through St Louis, take I-44 west to Springfield, MO. At Springfield take U S Hwy 65 South to Branson. At Branson, take U S Hwy 76 West to South Wild Wood Drive and turn left (south). Continue on Wildwood Drive to the hotel which will be on your left.  
From the north, come through St Louis and follow the above directions.  
From the South, (Little Rock Ark., area), take U S Hwy 65 North, and when you arrive at Branson, follow the above directions.  
Third: Due to a seeming lack of co-operation by the people at the Springfield Airport, we do not have up to date information on the flight schedules and airlines into and out of Springfield. The details of this will be in the next Octofoil.  
Fourth: Car rental offices at Springfield are Avis, Budget, National, Hertz and Enterprise. Contact your local rental companies to arrange for car rentals in Springfield.  
That’s all for now. As I have said many times, more later.  
Bill Robey, 15th Engr-Chairman, 61st Reunion 2006  
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October 4, 2005  
Mr. Joe Killen

Dear Mr. Killen:  
My Dad (Walter E. Ricker) and I are still reminiscing about the 9th Infantry Reunion we just enjoyed in Arlington, VA. We had a marvelous time seeing everyone again and celebrating being together.  
Thank you and Mr. Robey for the privilege of offering the prayer at the Banquet. As you know, I was to offer the prayer and make some remarks at the Memorial Service. Because of circumstances beyond our control, I opted to have the prayer at the Banquet instead. Consequently, I was not able to make the remarks as it did not seem appropriate to do so at the Banquet.  
Nonetheless , here are my remarks which I hope you can publish in an upcoming Octofoil. If that is not possible, that certainly understandable. If you have an e-mail, I can e-mail them to you and they would not have to be typed again. Let me know. I have enclosed my business card for easy contact.  
Again, we have such profound appreciation for the great job you do in communicating with the 9th Infantry men and families. Keep up the good work and hope to see you in Branson, Missouri !  
  
Sincerely,  
Rev. Jeannie Higgins

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**The PRAYER given at the BANQUET by Rev. Jeannine Higgins**

Let us pray . . .  
God of many nations and God of many names, we find ourselves as your humble servants, gathered together in this place. In this sweet land of liberty, we pause to say thanks for the privilege of being your children and bowing before you, the author of liberty. You are a great and merciful God and you have through these many generations been a faithful God.  
There are many hopes and dreams that have been shared and prayed as we yearn for a time of peace. Today America still defends the cause of the oppressed, the helpless and hopeless. In other lands other hearts are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as ours. So we pray- We pray for Isaiah, the prophet’s vision to become real - for a time when nations will settle disputes for many peoples. When they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. When nation will not take up sword against nation nor will they train for war anymore.  
But we live now, in a world which is broken and divided. We pray for our service men and women who defend the cause of democracy in all parts of the world today. We pray for their families who worry and wonder and pray for their loved ones. We pray for our country broken and suffering from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. We pray for all those who hear your call upon their life and seek to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty- who seek to serve the least, the last and the lost.  
Bless these Lord who have gathered here today for they have fought the fight and kept the faith. Bless this and every nation that we may become One- united in love and liberty. And now as we gather for this meal, we thank You for this physical food which nourishes our bodies, but most of all we thank You for Jesus Christ on whom we feed that we will hunger no more. In the matchless name of Jesus who died for the sins of the world, I pray. Amen.

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**The REMARKS that Rev. Jeannie Higgins deemed NOT APPROPRIATE at the BANQUET.**

I had the privilege of traveling to Europe again this year and this year I was able to visit the grave of an uncle (a brother of my mother) whom I never knew who had died in the Normandy Invasion in 1944. My mother had 5 brothers in this War at the same time. His name was Johnnie Hipps. He was a member of the 5th Infantry Division in the Army. He was buried in a cemetery in the Brittany region in a small area known as St. James, about 220 miles northwest of Paris, France. For 61 years my uncle had been buried there and I was the first person in my family to visit his grave. I was there only a short time, but in that time, I felt as if I was on holy ground. It was ground that not only now held many brave men; but it was ground on which some of you including my Dad had walked and fought and dreamed of returning to America to home and family and a simple, ordinary life. The Superintendent was so kind. He rubbed sand into the inscription on the pure white marker so that the information would show in photographs. He placed an American flag on the grave and then he asked me if I would for him to play “taps” which he did. I wrote in My journal this,  
“I am proud once again in this moment to be an American. America knows, appreciates, respects and honors its dead. Today I am profoundly grateful. . .”  
I was grateful for the privilege of touching something that represented my family, but I was profoundly grateful, too, for the experience that reminded me that freedom bears a great price. In that beautiful acreage of America located in France lay 4,410 soldiers who paid the ultimate price.  
Today, I am profoundly grateful for the privilege I have had in getting to know each of you - the living - heroes who still make this country great. As a daughter of an American G. I., an “Old Reliable” named Walter E. Ricker, I want to say that it has been and continues to be the highest privilege of my life as I have met you, heard your stories and come to love you. I want to say how profoundly grateful I am to have known you, loved you and shared with you in the years I’ve been privileged to attend these reunions with my Dad. I am again grateful to be an American, because you are an important part of what has made and continues to make America great. God bless you and thank you for the privilege of your friendship and love !

*The ABSOLUTE Deadline  
for the submission of copy  
for the next issue is JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>  
without exceptions to anyone*

CHAPTER NEWS

ILLINOIS CHAPTER

It is with sad heart that we report the death of two Illinois Chapter Members, David Heller and Bill Hennemuth.

David Heller passed away on December 19, 2005 after suffering with prostate cancer. His wife, DV, is managing as well as can be expected and so far is not making any plans to move out of their home of the past 45 years. We attended the wake along with Roger and Doris Elmer and the daughters of another deceased former member, Chuck Koskie. An Honor Guard was present at the burial.

Bill Hennemuth, 60th Inf. - 1st BN HQ, passed away on February 23rd in Florida. He had been in the hospital for two weeks but no diagnosis was given for his illness. He died shortly after that in his home in Florida. He was cremated and a Memorial Service will be held sometime in April. His wife, Peggy, has moved back and is now residing with her daughter in Rolling Meadows, Illinois.

We have been in touch with Lorraine Clark (Paul's widow) and she is doing well - keeping herself busy. Looking forward to the next issue of the Octofoil and hopefully will make the reunion this year - Lord willing. Stay well and Happy Spring.

Respectfully,  
Mike Belmonte

FLORIDA CHAPTER

**TOUR OF KENNEDY SPACE CENTER PLANNED:** Mark your calendar. Reserve May 1, 2 and 3 to attend the 2006 Florida Chapter Reunion at the Holiday Inn, Titusville on U. S. Hwy 1. Norris Gray, who worked for NASA for many years, together with Reunion Chairman Dr. Marty Gross and Ret. Col. Ralph Williams, made arrangements for a V I P guided tour of the Kennedy space Center scheduled for May 2nd. A bus will take our group to Cape Canaveral. After passing through security, a NASA guide will take us through a tour of the Cape's Auxiliary Air Force Base followed by a tour of the Kennedy Space Center. After lunch, we will go to the IMAX Theater to view a movie of the Space Program. This tour of the Kennedy Space Center will remain as a lifetime experience so make the effort to attend this reunion. There will be very little walking. The Florida Chapter welcomes any member of the National Organization, also relatives and friends of the Florida Chapter members. Please call Emil De Donato at (352) 489 - 4070 for information and costs.

**CHAPTER DUES:** Reminders were sent out early this year to 9 Florida Chapter members whose dues expire on April 1, 2006. The \$13.00 dues for 3 years has not changed in over 20 years. This amount figures to be just a little over a penny a day. The Florida Chapter dues starts on April 1st and ends on March 31st. Please check your Membership Card to see if your dues expire this year. If for any reason the information on your card does not jive with your notice, then please notify me immediately at (352) 489 - 4070.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

**Arnold and Louise Tomanek:** We were happy to learn that Arnold has fully recovered from his slight seizure. They plan to be at the May Reunion.

**H. F. and Lila Stansell:** H. F. is having a slight problem with his back but otherwise he is feeling okay. Lila is walking again and anxious to assume her role as President of the Chapter's Women's auxiliary.

**Ira and Faye Moser:** They are enjoying life by attending concerts, taking trips and coming to the Chapter reunions. They will arrive a day earlier at the Holiday Inn on U S Hwy 1 in Titusville to help in setting up the Hospitality Room.

**Paul and Eunice Crumb:** Husband & wife are busy working at the American Legion Post in Belleview and taking in the weekly concerts in Silver Springs Nature's Park. They are looking forward to the May 2006 Reunion.

**Wally Richardson:** Wally is making plans to make the trip from Indiana with another person. We admire Wally for making such a long trip to our annual reunions, whether he comes alone or has a companion for the journey.

**Gifford Persing:** His wife, Betty, suffered a stroke and is being cared for by Gifford. He is hoping to attend part of the reunion if he can get someone to take care of Betty. The Persings live in Orlando which is less than an hour's drive to Titusville. Hopefully we will see Gifford in May.

**Chuck and Dolores Van der Poel:** All's well at their family. In addition to Chuck's sister-in-law, Shirley King; they may be joined the Van der Poel's son at the reunion.

**Ed and Ruth Gray:** Ed is busy piloting his boat off the coast of St. Petersburg, but they will take time off to be with us at the reunion.

**Cletus and Lula Winningham:** I have not heard from them despite the repeated messages left on their answering machine. Anyone knowing the status of Cletus is asked to furnish that information to me.

Emil J. De Donato

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Twenty eight people attended our Christmas party at the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn: Elmer Wagner, Tom Hatton, Everett Tapp and daughter Susan Henriksen, Marilyn Martin, Don Sedestrom, Tom Saunders, John and Rose Bonkowski, James and Wylodean Overton, Erik and Kaye Olsen, Hal and Lucille Ladouceur, Clyde and Ann LaBrenz, Floyd Hennessey and Jeanette Williams, Mary Doering, Lynn and Stella Bowers, Lucile and Susan Andrews, Marlene and Doug Hoag, and Ed Jr. and Margaret Wisniewski.

We welcome Doug and Marlene Hoag who came with Tom Saunders. Doug was with the 60th Infantry in Heilbronn when the 9th Division was back again in Germany for occupation duty in the mid 1950s.

Also, Jim Overton showed us a historic photo of the surrender of a top German officer in Bad Godesberg, south of Bonn on the Rhine river.

Following our family style chicken dinner, 1st Vice-Pres. Tom Hatton conducted the business meeting. The following are the Michigan Chapter officers elected for 2006:

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

The 2006 National Reunion is at the Hotel Radisson, Branson, MO on October 6, 7, and 8.

Mary Doering has again offered to host our memorial service and summer picnic at her home in Alto, MI on Saturday, August 5, 2006.

The Annual Christmas dinner party will be Wednesday, December 6, 2006.

News has reached us of the passing of David Heller of the Illinois Chapter. Some Michigan Chapter members were able to attend the services. Dave was one of our more active members and will be sadly missed.

If your dues are due, please make out a check, to "Michigan Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assn." and send it to Margaret Wisniewski, 7576 Gratiot, Columbus, MI 48063.

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

GREATER N Y CHAPTER

At 1:30 PM on Friday, March 17, 2006, the NY Area Chapter met at the Franklin Square Public Library on Lincoln Street in Franklin Square, Long Island, NY. President-elect Tony Varone called the meeting to order with six members present. Varone led the attending members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and our resident Chaplain Joe Killen gave the convocation. A moment of silence was observed for our buddies who had passed away in war and since. An acknowledgment was also given to our country's MIA and POWs.

A motion was made, seconded and voted upon to suspend the reading of the minutes of the most recent meeting, which was held in December 2005. A belated financial report was read showing the Chapter's finances are in decent condition at the present time.

There was no correspondence to be read and a discussion about our members and their families who are on "sick call" followed. President Varone suggested that the Secretary purchase a supply of "Get-Well" cards, so we can have them on hand at the meetings to sign and send out as the need arises.

A letter has been sent to the Deputy Director of the L I National Cemetery requesting permission to hold our annual Memorial ceremony there on Saturday, May 20, 2006, which is also designated as Armed Forces Day. We will begin at 10:30 A. M. that morning. We included what we would require from the VA system to accommodate our members, and also included an alternate arrangement in case of inclement weather that day. As of this report, an answer to our request has not been received.

The formal installation of the Chapter's officers which was scheduled to take place at this meeting was tabled to allow all of the officers elected to assemble at one time. Some of those elected were absent and had called in their regrets due to pressing personal business elsewhere. We shall attempt the installation at the scheduled April 21st meeting.

A motion proposed by Al Zenka and seconded by Joe Charvat that the Chapter hold a Christmas dinner party at a restaurant met with unanimous approval from the body. No day of the week or date was set; however it was agreed to be sometime in December. After other general discussion the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 P. M.

Those attending not mentioned above: Adolph Wadalavage and John Tschupp. Now is the time to pay your dues for 2006, and beyond if you wish. It's \$10.00 for one year, \$25.00 for three years and \$75.00 for a Lifetime Membership. Checks should be made payable to: The NY Area Chapter, 9th Infantry Division Assn., and mailed to Treasurer Joseph Maiale, at 906 3rd Avenue, Franklin Square, NY 11010.

Respectfully,  
Marv Levy, Co. A - 60th Inf.

## MAIL CALL

Co. F - 47th Inf.

Ben D. Hull



Find enclosed a check for the years of '05, '06 and '07 dues. It's so hard for this 86 year old to realize where all the time has gone, and so fast.

I was lucky enough to be able to attend the reunion in Houston, Texas in 2001 and really enjoyed it. I just wish I could attend more of them but they are just too far away for me to travel anymore.

In closing I want to send all the best of wishes for the coming years and the best of health. I hope you can make this scribbling out.

Thanks,

Ben D. Hull

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Medical Detachment - 47th Inf.

Dr. Gordon M. Binder, M. D.



20 March 2006

Here are my dues for 2006 to 2008. I missed the last two reunions because I have my wife in a nursing home and visit her every day.

Today is the 61st anniversary of the day I was evacuated from the Remagen Bridgehead, March 20, 1945. I remember vividly crossing the Rhine in an ambulance over a pontoon bridge, looking upstream and seeing the collapsed Ludendorff Bridge, half submerged in the Rhine River.

They took me to a small airfield a mile or two west of the Rhine and in an hour or two, flew me to England. For me the war was over. What a memory !

Gordon Binder.

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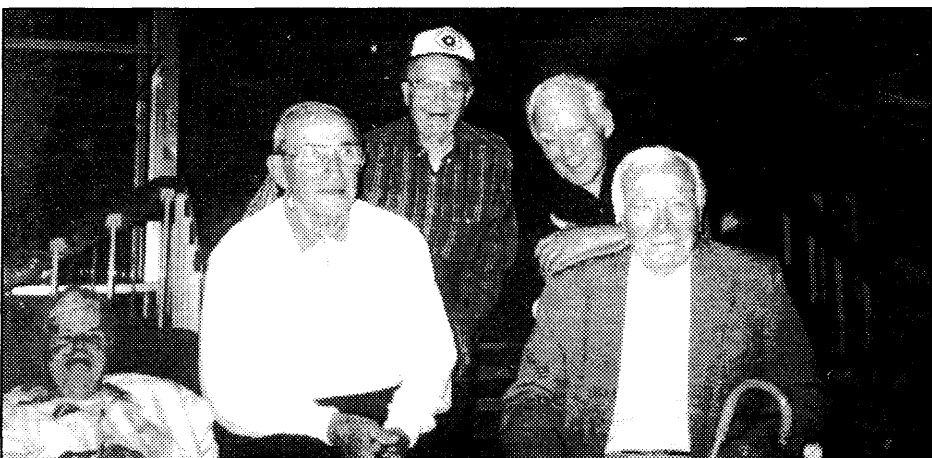
From the Office of the National SecretaryTo National President Jack A. Collier :

This is to confirm our conversation of Saturday evening, March 25, 2006. I feel that I could not create a Memorial Service worthy of the Association's fallen members from this distance away from the venue. My positions in our organization demand my daily attention, therefore I am not available to arrange any activity which would involve my traveling great distances. Our members deserve a better Memorial Service than one that I could offer at this time. I have confidence that you and your reunion chairman will be able to fill the requirements for the service without too much trouble.

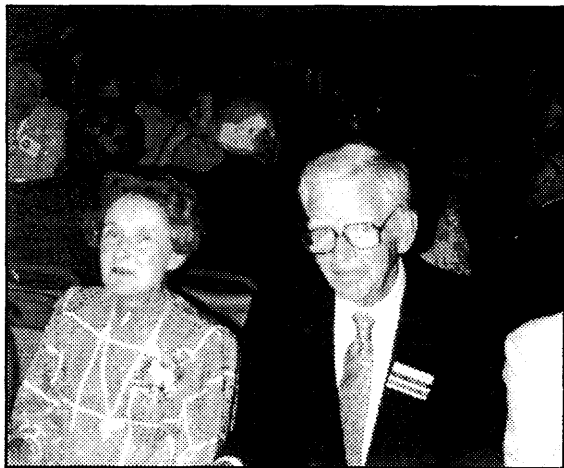
With regrets at this time,

Joseph P. Killen, Nat'l Sec'y

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Monticello, NY, May, 2000, Kutsher's. Victoria Cook, Aldor Cook, Sabatino "Gus" Agostinelli, Joe Killen and Dan Quinn.



Oscar Thompson and wife, Former "B" Co. 39th Cmdr. - (Deceased) - Lake Placid Reunion, 1994, Atlanta, GA native, fine human being and leader.

Hq. Btry - 84th F. A. Bn.

William J. Rybka, Lt. Col. USA Ret.



Feb. 7, 2006

The Octofoil

224 North Grove Street

Valley Stream, NY 11580

Attn: Mr. Joe Killen

Subject: Error in Octofoil

Please do not regard this as any sort of reprimand or complaint, because I appreciate so much everything ALL you Old Reliables do . . . the ones of you who are willing to take a leading role in keeping us Old Farts TOGETHER and KICKING! However, just to keep the record straight, back in October 2005, I sent you a check, stating that it was a donation to the General Fund in HONOR of Mrs. Anna Lesko, widow of Joe Lesko, Hq. Btry 84th F. A. Bn. Somehow the signals got switched; and the November/ December 2005 Octofoil listed this donation as in MEMORY of Mrs. Anna Lesko. Joey's "Annie Bananie" is not deceased; she is well and kicking high. In order not to distress her many friends, I will greatly appreciate your making a correction in the next Octofoil.

Here's to all your efforts in carrying out the interests of all us Old Reliables. God bless and keep you; and until Branson time, I am . . .

Yours truly,

Bill Rybka

WJR/lhr

cc: Anna Lesko



\*\*\*\*\*

CAN WE HELP OUT A BUDDY ??

Service Btry - 34th F. A. Bn.

Victor Nardi



I would like to buy books, decals or anything on the, or my Ninth Infantry Division. Please send me a list of them with the prices.

Thank you,

Victor Nardi

P.S. Recently I was burnt out and lost what I had on the Ninth Infantry Division. My time with the Ninth was from Feb. 1941 to Sept. 1945.

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Ninth Q. M. Co.

Everett N. Tapp



Just a little note to let you know I'm still kicking and ready for Spring. It is very touching to see we lost four more great friends since the Washington Reunion. Dave, John, William and of course Henry, our 94 year old pal whom I've known for quite some time. David and family were seated with me and my family in the year of 1961 in Detroit or 1965 in New York for some 40 plus years. John Maloney was a golfing buddy of mine on Cape Cod a few years ago, and William Doty was a regular at our Michigan Chapter - Illinois Chapter Out of State Get-Together in Angola, IN and had joined our Michigan Chapter.

Thursday I talked to the Ed Johnston family. Ed was a K Co. - 47th man and I learned he had just recently had some major surgery and was at home recuperating. I invited this family and subpoenaed Ed to Branson, MO for reunion and informed him to pick up US 60 from Paducah, go west staying just right of the yellow line to Springfield and head south to Branson. With these instructions he has no reason to exit by mistake at Opossum Hollar or the Skunk Trail exit unless of course they have to make a pit stop.

It is rather quiet on the western front. The Michigan Chapter did send out a forward scouting party to Grand Rapids, MI on Feb. 15th looking into the future (2007) and will bring more news to Branson for October. So for now take care.

Yours Truly,

Everett N. Tapp

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MAIL CALL

Co. L - 47th Inf.  
Tony DeRobertis



Hello,  
Willie Muldoon sent me a note to send in my dues. We are in the Poconos seven years and we are that much older. I had to surrender my drivers license because the Doctor at the hospital said I was too old to drive. Now I depend on my son and daughter-in-law to do the driving. It did not snow too much but it has been cold. Wishing you the best of health.  
Your buddy,  
Tony and Rose

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Co. C - 39th Inf.  
Leland A. Ellis



Howdy,  
Here is my new address, and here are my dues for a few years. I am still holding up every day and thank "God" for another day. I am planning on taking in the 9th Convention this year if all goes well. Remind all of Co. "C", 39th Infantry to try and make it.  
Thanks for the paper, I enjoy it.  
Regards,  
Leland A. Ellis

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Co. B - 47th Inf.  
Bill Crain



Hello. Enclosed please find my check to cover my dues for another three years, and a "Tip of the Hat" in memory of Dave Heller. My wife and I are not in the best of health. If there is any way I can possibly make the next reunion I will give it my best shot.  
Bill

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Margaret Ann Alberter, Ronald M.A. Hirst, Robert H. Alberter, Bayeux, France, June, 2004.

Co. H - 47th Inf.  
Robert H. Alberter



My wife and I and two of our friends went to France in June 2004 to attend a ceremony in Greville-Hauge, northwest of Cherbourg. Greville-Hague was celebrating their liberation 60 years ago by the 2nd Battalion of the 47th Infantry. Cherbourg had fallen, but railroad guns in the Hague peninsula were still firing huge shells from the guns onto the city of Cherbourg. The 47th was given the job of silencing these guns. Greville was liberated on June 30, 1944 and that ended all German resistance on the Cotentin Peninsula. H Company suffered high casualties due to heavy mortar fire in that encounter and one of those killed was S/Sgt. Dom Padula of the first platoon.

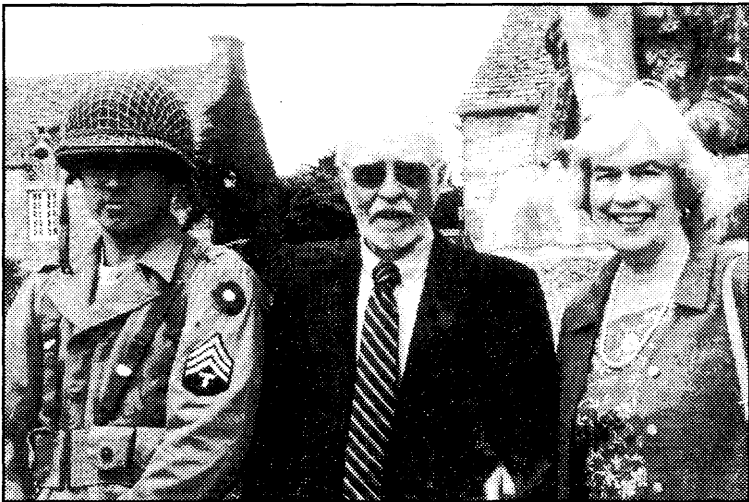
I remembered the village where Padula had been killed and in 1992 I went looking for it. When I located it I couldn't find anyone in the village who spoke English. When I got back home I enlisted the aid of a friend who was born in France to write a letter for me addressed to the Mayor of Greville. That led to a very rewarding association with the people of Greville-Hague. In 1993, the people of Greville and the surrounding area held a very memorable reception for me. Since 1994 the citizens of Greville have held an annual memorial ceremony for Dom Padula of Natick, RI.

This year they combined this with their liberation ceremony. The event was quite elaborate. It began with a procession into the church for a memorial Mass (the same church that is depicted in a well known painting by Jean Francois Millet), then speeches in the village square followed by a champagne reception. Although all veterans of the Battle of Normandy were welcome, I happened to be the only ex-GI able to be in Greville on June 30, 2004. The ceremonies were attended by about 150 people from the villages surrounding Greville. Some of the attendees were active duty and retired French military, plus some French citizens in military enactment clubs wearing American WWII uniforms and driving jeeps. Enclosed are some pictures of this event.

Before going to Greville, we met with Ronald M.A. Hirst, the 60th Inf. man who lives in Wiesbaden, Germany. Ronald is responsible for the Ninth Division monument in Barneville, and has visited most of our memorials in France and has written numerous letters to the Octofoil. We had a very nice visit with him in his hotel in Bayeux and he was pleased to show me his 1989 Ford Mustang replete with the Octofoil insignia in the rear window. I am enclosing a picture of my wife, Margaret Ann, Ronald and me. I am the one wearing glasses.

We encountered many, many people in our travels around France, young and not so young, who wanted us to know that they greatly appreciated the sacrifice that we made in 1944 in order to secure their freedom.

Sincerely,  
Bob Alberter



French Enactor, Bob Alberter, Margaret Ann Alberter, Greville-Hague, France, June 30, 2004.

THE OCTOFOIL  
224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, NY 11580

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