

College of the Holy Cross

## CrossWorks

---

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

---

1-1-2007

### The Octofoil, January/February/March 2007

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil>



Part of the [Military and Veterans Studies Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, January/February/March 2007" (2007). *The Octofoil*. 366.  
<https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/366>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the 9th Infantry Division Association at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Octofoil by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.



# The Octofoil

Jan.-Feb.-Mar.  
2007

Volume LXII , No. 1

## President's Message

As some of you know, I have been in the hospital for the last few months. I'm now being held hostage at my daughters. Send Help!!!

I have become aware that some of our members are concerned about the continuation of our organization. We need to set our differences aside. Unity is a must. It was decided in Washington D.C. that as long as two members wanted to get together, we will continue. With the help of the Sons & Daughters Auxiliary I know this is possible.

Bill Robey was kind enough to stay as Secretary/Treasurer until the next election. Thank you, Bill.

On behalf of the Division, I would like to thank William Sauers for accepting the position of Editor. Many letters and calls have been sent in favor of the new format.

Thanks again to John and Peggy Sabato for getting our mailing list organized.

Our 62nd Reunion in Grand Rapids will be here before you know it. I'm looking forward to a great turn out. I'd like to thank in advance all of the people helping with the Reunion.

Jim Dawson, President  
9th Infantry Division Association

## 62nd Annual Reunion Report

Grand Rapids, Michigan

17, 18,19, August 2007

### **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!! DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE**

I guess that it is time to furnish more details about the reunion in Grand Rapids. There are some details that were left out of the last notice, and some changes that have been made in a couple of other details. So here goes:

1. The reservation deadline date has been extended to May 15, 2007 in order for more people to get their money together. The **FINAL PAYMENT** date has not changed at all. That deadline is still **1 JULY 2007**.

2. We have been searching for something different to have for entertainment and education on Saturday night the 18th, and it has finally been decided to include a visit to the Gerald R. Ford

Presidential Museum, with dinner at the museum. We had already budgeted enough money into the total costs for each person to, hopefully, cover the cost of this event. We came right on the money. We will have buses leaving the hotel at 6:30 PM and dinner will be as soon as we arrive at the museum, probably around 7 to 7:15 PM. After dinner there will be time to visit the museum and see President Ford's gravesite before returning to the hotel. Exact return time will be announced at the museum.

3. Already many members of the Sons & Daughters have volunteered to help in any way they can, and we welcome their offers of help. We will need someone to

(continued on page 2)

[www.octofoil.org](http://www.octofoil.org)

### Inside this issue:

<i>Tip Of The Hat</i>	3
<i>Worcester Memorial</i>	
<i>Taps Sounded</i>	4
<i>Taps Letters</i>	
<i>Taps Obituaries</i>	6
<i>Taps Tributes</i>	7
<i>Chapter News</i>	8
<i>Mail Call</i>	11
<i>62nd Reunion Room</i>	17
<i>Reservation Form</i>	

### OUR MISSION

- This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division.



staff the registration desk each day, and to help with loading the buses, making sure everyone gets back on the bus at the museum, and probably many more small but important tasks to make the reunion run smoothly.

4. Several people have asked about prices for individual events for those not staying at the hotel. Following is a breakdown for each event, plus shared costs to cover such things as costs of meeting rooms, use of PA and microphone systems, faxes, computer use and other items; this will be listed as "shared expenses" which everyone will have to pay.

Friday Night Beer Party & Reception	\$12.50
Breakfasts-3 @ \$15.00 each	\$45.00
Ford Museum Dinner and bus transp.	\$50.00
Banquet & Reception	\$47.00
Shared Expenses (Everyone Pays)	\$34.00

If you are not staying at the hotel, then figure out which events you are going to attend and send a check to cover what you pick out, remembering to include the shared costs for everyone.

The basic schedule will be about the same as the two previous reunions. Friday afternoon there will be a meeting of the Board of Governors, and Friday night, the reception and beer party; Saturday morning breakfast is included, and there will be a Memorial Service after breakfast. Lunch will be on your own and in the afternoon there will be time for the Association Business Meeting, the luncheon and meeting for the Ladies Auxiliary, and the meeting of the Sons & Daughters Auxiliary. Saturday night, the visit to the Ford Museum and dinner.

Sunday there is not much planned for the morning. Breakfast is included on Sunday also, and a chance to go to church, or do a little sightseeing in Grand Rapids, or just to sleep late. Sunday afternoon the second meeting of the Board of Governors. Sunday night, the big event of the reunion, the Banquet and Reception, tentatively scheduled to start at the Open Bar Reception from about 6:00 to 7:00 PM with dinner approximately 8:00 PM to whenever we finish.

Monday breakfast is also included to get you ready to check out and start home, hopefully looking forward to the 2008 reunion. The location for this has not been set as yet, and will be set at the Board of Governors meeting on Sunday.

As of now the Reunion Committee consists of : Bill Robey, Chairman; Jim Dawson, Co-Chairman; Tom Hatton, John Sabato, Mary Blann Cooper, and anyone else we can convince to help with the reunion. If you would like to help let me know.

Reservations are coming in a little slower than I had hoped for, but they are coming in fairly steadily. Make your reservations as early as you possibly can, as it is much easier to cancel one at the last minute than it is to go

make a reservation at the last minute.

There are supposed to be about 60 flights per day into Gerald Ford Airport at Grand Rapids, so airline reservations should be easy to acquire from almost anywhere in the country.

The hotel runs a van service on an on-call basis. When you claim your baggage at the airport, look for the hotel phone kiosk, and use the phone there to call the Crowne Plaza. It takes them about 15-20 minutes to get from the hotel to the airport. If you will let me know when you make your reservations as to what flight you are on, and the arrival time, we will try to work out with the hotel to have the van already at the airport for you. More details about this in the next Octofoil.

Please check your membership cards and make sure you keep your dues up to date. As most of you know, our major source of income is from the dues. Any Life Member who has been a Life Member more than 10 years could help by sending us a small contribution. We only mention this because every time we lose a member we lose income. We continue to mail the Octofoil to widows and that costs extra, although we do not regret doing this.

Many of the widows send contributions to help offset the cost to send them the Octofoil.

Make doubly sure that the Octofoil editor has your correct address. The last Octofoil cost us about \$80.00 in extra postage because of copies being returned by the Post Office and having to re-mail them. We also had a lot of them returned for what the Post Office called "Temporarily Away", these too had to be re-mailed. This could be avoided by having the Post Office forward your mail, or having a neighbor pick up your mail if you are only going to be gone a couple of weeks. There were some returned because we had the wrong house number even though we had the correct street.

While we are talking about the Octofoil, since the last issue I have heard from more than 150 people about the new format and everyone was greatly in favor of the new one. I have NOT HAD A SINGLE COMPLAINT about the new format. Many said it was the best thing the Association has done with the Octofoil in the last 50 years. Any comments, both pro and con should be sent to either the Secretary or the Editor.

Also, anything that you would like to see in the Octofoil, such as photos of WWII events and members of the 9th, individual stories about WWII from our members, or notices about deaths or illnesses of members, your own stories about North Africa, Sicily and Europe, and practically anything else, send these to the Editor. William Sauers, a member of the Sons & Daughters Auxiliary has accepted the job as Permanent Editor and will continue to publish the Octofoil until he gets tired of the job. We don't want anyone antagonizing our Editor and making him mad enough to quit on us!!! His address and email address are

(continued on page 15)



## TIP OF THE HAT

Page 3

We thank the following members and friends for remembering the

Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

Dan Quinn in memory of Jack Scully, Eddie Egan, "Guggy" and all our deceased members.

Larry McLaughlin in memory of Eddie W. Bleck

Marilyn L. Martin in memory of Rose Bonkowski

Carroll F. Devoid in memory of Alexander T. Forrest

Olido Starro in memory of Angelo Ferrara, Co. G-39th Inf

Louis M. Prince in memory of Walter T. Quigley, Btry. A-60th FA Bn.

Wanda Shaw in memory of Glenn A. Shaw

Wade E. Hill in memory of his beloved father Kenneth W. Hill, Co. E-39th Inf.

John Bonkowski in memory of his loving wife Rose Bonkowski

John N. Moore in honor of Albert C. Ferrante

Ernest G. Micka in honor of Albert C. Ferrante

James M. Otts in memory of Major A.T. Forrest, Lt. Robert N. Mandle, Sgt. Albert Ferrante and Sgt. Jerry Shea

Mildred A. Billington in memory of Edwin Lusk, Robert Bovanizer, Joseph M. Gustamachio, Siebert Vicars and Phillip Jackson Gilbert

## REUNION

Since nineteen hundred forty-five, once a year, it's time to meet

Members of the 9th Inf. Division in a comforting retreat,  
Somewhere in the United States for a few carefree days,  
To celebrate unity and comradeship in many wonderful ways.

When the time draws near they arrive by car by plane  
Happy and thankful to have survived an era cruel and insane,

When they had to fight in European countries, North Africa and Sicily

So people would be able to live without fear and breathe free.

The "Old Reliables" they were called,

Their hearts and souls were forever sold

To the country that they loved and defended so well  
And from then on had heroic and sad stories to tell.

## "Lest We Forget"

### NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION WORCESTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

October 27 & 28, 2007

Please join us on Sunday, October 28, 2007 at the 10:00 AM Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, 353 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605, Phone # 508-754-8419. We will be remembering in our prayers all of the men that wore the Octofoil; both the 4,581 who fell on the field of battle and those who returned home with us and have since gone to their eternal reward.

A service will follow the Mass at our memorial on the church grounds.

We will sponsor a luncheon at the Holiday Inn, 500 Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA, Phone # 508-852-4000. As our late friend Tom Boyle had always stated, "We will have you on your way home by 3:00 PM."

Reservations for the luncheon must be made payable to the "Ninth Infantry Division Association" at a per person cost of \$20.00 and mailed to:

Herbert E. Olson

We have reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn, Worcester, MA. Room reservations must be made by yourselves. The CP room will be opened about 4:00 PM on Saturday, October 27th for your enjoyment.

"Friends of Father Connors"

So many of their comrades were not so lucky to return  
To their homeland and families, but they will forever remain  
In respectful memories, that could never die  
And their living buddies will worship and pray  
And honor those buried in the earth far and away,  
Until they will all meet at a reunion on one glorious day  
In a better place without danger, heartbreak and pain.  
Then the old warriors will reminisce once again  
And thank God for the heavenly home, they so truly deserve,  
For the days, months and years they had so unselfishly served.

Gerlinde E. Whitt

(The above poem, written in memory of the 9th Infantry Division was provided by Everett N. Tapp)



## 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.



Erwin A. (Bud) Schmidt  
Co. F-47th Infantry Regiment

Alexander T. Forrest  
Co. A & Hq.-15th Engineers Battalion

Albert C. (Alley) Ferrante  
Co. B-15th Engineers Battalion

## TAPS LETTERS

**Richard L. Solar**  
**Co E.-39th Infantry Regiment**

Richard L. Solar passed away in the presence of his loving family on December 4, 2006 in Tucson, AZ. He was born September 17, 1919 in Clayton, NY to John E. and Ida Mae (Orivs) Solar. He, his wife and daughter moved to Tucson in 1957. He was a Letter Carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 16 years, retiring in 1975 for health reasons.

Richard served his country during World War II where he served 13 months in the European Theater of Operations as a Tech. Sgt. In the Army. He received the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and two Bronze Battle Participation Stars.

He loved to bowl and was Secretary/Treasurer on many bowling leagues throughout Tucson. He was a member of the Odd Fellows for many years in Tucson, as well as the Elks Lodge in Show Low, AZ. He was also active in the First Congregational Church in Tucson.

Richard is survived by his wife of 65 years, Thelma, and daughter, Kathy (Robin) Tapelt. He was the proud grandfather of Adam (Solana), Nina, Casey and Rodd (Liz), and great-grandfather of Isabella and Logan. He is also survived by two brothers, Charles G. and John E. Solar of Clayton, NY and several nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be held January 27, 2007 at Far Horizon Tucson Village, 555 N. Pantano Road in the Fiesta Room at 4:00 PM. Burial will be the following Tuesday at the Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix at 10:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1350 N. Arcadia Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85712

Kathy Solar Tapelt

**Kenneth W. Hill**  
**Co. E-39th Infantry Regiment**

Dear Friends of Kenneth Hill,

I am saddened to report the death of my Dad on December 23, 2006. He fought a long and hard fight against lung cancer and he left us with the same grace and style I've seen any time he was faced with adversity.

He was able to stay at home thanks to the wonderful people at Hospice of Midland. Luckily I retired in July and that enabled me to spend much of the past 6 months with him. My sisters and my wife were also able to spend quality time with him in the months toward the end. Thanksgiving he enjoyed time with his entire family including his 3 grandchildren. He and Mary had lunch at the house almost every day together, and they watched TV together at night. She will now move to Phoenix and live near her daughter.

Your letters and thoughts were very important to him and he regretted not being able to see everyone at the reunions the last couple of years. I feel I know all of you because of the wonderful stories he shared with us.

I have enclosed several items including the memorial booklet from his funeral service that includes a testimonial I wrote to him (see page 7) and all of you and your families and friends that took part in the war effort.

Thank all of you for being his friend and comrade.

Wade Hill, on behalf of the Kenneth W. Hill family

*Ed Note: The above two letters are printed in full since they were edited for content in the last issue.*



**Walter T. Quigley**

**Battery A—60th Field Artillery Battalion**

The enclosed is in memory of Walter T. Quigley, Battery A, 60th FA Bn. Please acknowledge (if you do that) to Mrs. Walter Quigley, P.O. Box 1094, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531-1094. Otherwise she will probably see it if you will still be sending her the Octofoil

I was B.C. of A Btry. From about Oct. of 44 until Sept. 45 (when the Div. was sort of liquidated). I remember Walter as very fine soldier, and great guy, loved by everybody.

Incidentally, your new Octofoil is great. I hope to attend the Reunion in August, it is not too far from here. Congratulations on the good work all of you do to keep the Association going.

Best to you for 2007 & onward

Lou Prince

**Albert C. Ferrante**

**Co. B—15th Engineers Battalion**

It's with great sadness that I'm informing you of the passing on of our good friend and buddy—Al Ferrante on Feb. 22, 2007.

We both arrived at Ft. Bragg in Feb. 1941 and made it from Safi to the end at the Elbe River.

His memory of all the places that the 9th took was extraordinary and at our reunions he would recall many of them for us.

Al made many, many reunions, including the last one in Branson, but it was under a great strain and upon returning home, felt worse and soon entered a hospital a few time for treatment. His last trip to the hospital was for just a few days where he was "at ease and contented" before passing on. Farewell Buddy.

Please accept my donation in honor of Al.

Sincerely,

Erine Micka

During the past year, four comrades of the 15th Combat Engineer Battalion—that I know of—have passed on to their Heavenly reward. Please see that this Memorial contribution reaches the Memorial Fund in memory of them.

They are:

Major A.T. Forrest

Lt. Robert N. Mandle

Sgt. Albert Ferrante

Sgt. Jerry Shea

They were fine soldiers and longtime friends and will be sorely missed.

And thank you, Bill, for stepping up to the plate as acting secretary.

Best regards to you,

James M. Otts

It is the VETERAN, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.  
It is the VETERAN, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.  
It is the VETERAN, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.  
It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.  
It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.  
It is the VETERAN, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.  
It is the VETERAN, who salutes the Flag.  
It is the VETERAN, who serves under the Flag.  
(Courtesy of Mildred A. Billington)

**Ninth Infantry Division Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients**



S/Sgt. Herschel F. Briles, Co. C, 899th TD Bn; Near Scherpenseel, Germany; 20 November 1944  
2nd Lieutenant John E. Butts\*, Co. E, 60th Infantry; Normandy, France; 14, 16, 23 June 1944  
T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro, Co. E, 39th Infantry; Near Kalterherberg, Germany; 22 December 1944  
Sgt. William J. Nelson\*, Co. H, 60th Infantry; Djegel Dardys, NW of Sedjenane, Tunisia; 24 April 1943  
PFC Carl V. Sheridan\*, Co. K, 47th Infantry; Frenzenberg Castle, Germany; 26 November 1944  
Captain Matt L. Urban, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Renouf, France; 14 June to 3 September, 1944

\* indicates posthumously awarded

(Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History & Photo from Congressional Medal of Honor Society)



## TAPS OBITUARIES

**Alexander T. Forrest****1918—2006**

Alex (Scotty) was born on March 28, 1918 to James and Hannah Canfield (Taylor) Forrest, at Ferniegan, Scotland. He immigrated to the United States in 1927, and became a naturalized citizen in 1934.

Alex graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1940 and a B.S. in Engineering Management from the Carnegie Institute of Technology, (Carnegie Mellon University).

He married Olive Elizabeth Palmer, October 30, 1948. With much sorrow he buried Olive in their crypt in the Mausoleum at Jefferson Memorial Park in Pittsburgh, PA after her passing on December 16, 2004. He will join her for eternity in their crypt.

Alex served in the Ninth Infantry Division, 15th Combat Engineers throughout World War II (1941-1945) in the European Theater of operation. He earned a Silver Star, Bronze Star, Fourragere Belgium and Fourragere France, along with eight Battle Stars.

His unit received two Presidential Citation's. Alex participated in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Normandy. During this time he attained the rank of colonel.

He worked for over 40 years in the field of engineering with U.V. Industries as Vice President of Engineering Mueller Brass Company, Vice President and Assistant to the President of Phoenix Steel Corporation, Vice President of Engineering Midland Division, Corporate Superintendent of Engineering and Maintenance Midland Works and Chief Engineer, Parks Works and Spring division.

During his business career, Alex traveled extensively domestically and internationally. Following his retirement, he and Olive continued to travel.

Alex was a registered Professional Engineer and held various chairmanships and Director of the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers. Alex was a member of the Western Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, American Iron and Steel Institute, British Iron and Steel Institute, Pi Tau Sigma, and Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Scholastics Fraternities.

Preceded in death by wife Olive, parents, brothers James and John, and sister Martha (Ogilvey). In the Pittsburgh, PA area, survived by sister-in-law Lois Palmer, nieces Ellen J. Forrest, Hannah Lewis and Nancy Conley. In the Charlotte, NC area, survived by sister-in-law Elizabeth Forrest and nieces Lauren Jerome, Christine Odioso and Jennifer Peltier.

A viewing will be held Wednesday, December 13th at Larkin Mortuary (260 East South Temple) from 2:00—4:00 PM; in lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to the Hospice Foundation Caregivers Support Network, 310 East 4500 South, Murray, UT 84107; of whom we would

like to thank for their care and love of Olive and Alex.

Entombment will be at Jefferson Memorial Mausoleum, Pittsburgh, PA

**Albert C. (Alley) Ferrante****1917—2007**

Albert C. (Alley) Ferrante, 90, a lifelong resident of Framingham, died Thursday, February 22, 2007, at the Tip-pet House in Needham.

He was the husband of Margaret (Zanchi) Ferrante of Framingham for 60 years. Born and raised in Framingham, he was the son of the late Guiseppe and Rosaria (Errico) Ferrante. During World War II, Mr. Ferrante served in the U.S. Army as a sergeant in the 9th Infantry Division, Company B, 15th Engineer Battalion, and saw action in French Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.

Mr. Ferrante worked as a postal worker in Framingham for many years until his retirement, following which he worked at the South Middlesex District Court House as an office clerk for 25 years. He was a longtime member of the Columbus Hall in Framingham and a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Besides his wife, he leaves his children, Joseph A. Ferrante and his wife, Margaret, of Norfolk, and Pamela L. Ferrante of Blacksburg, VA; a granddaughter, Rachel E. Ferrante of Norfolk; and many nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Domenic and James Ferrante and Florence Coumyn.

The funeral will take place Monday, February 26, at 9:00 AM, from the Norton Funeral Home, 53 Beech St. (corner of Union Avenue), Framingham, followed by a funeral Mass at 10:00 AM, at St. Tarcisius Church, 563 Waverley St. (Rte. 135), Framingham.

Burial will follow in the family lot in St. Tarcisius Church, Framingham. Visiting hours are today, February 25, from 2 to 5 PM, at the funeral home. Instead of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the charity of one's choice.

**Richard Kent**

As reported in the last Octofoil, long time WWII officer of the 9th Division, passed away earlier this year. Kent was a part of the Division from its inception at Ft. Bragg in August of 1940 when there were only 300 officers and enlisted men.

He had been commissioned from ROTC as a regular Army Officer. His first assignment was Division Property Officer. Later he was assigned to the 60th Regiment as a company Commander followed by assignments in Regimental Headquarters and as Liaison to 2nd Corps. He participated in the landing and fighting in Africa.

(continued on page 9)





**Albert C. Ferrante**

**Co. B—15th Engineer Battalion**

Our Association has lost a fine soldier and those members of 'B' Co. will be particularly saddened over the loss of Al Ferrante whose leadership and humor served his country well.

I believe our 9th Division was as successful in combat in part because of his effective effort that started back in '41'. He was part of the Division's formation adapted for WWII at Ft. Bragg, learning the skills required of a combat engineer to support the infantry—mainly the 47th Infantry Regiment: clearing mines of all varieties, removing mortar and artillery interdiction plans and a thousand other jobs. Sgt. Ferrante and his team were successful on all occasions, enjoying "ring-side seats" during the time our Division earned eight battle stars in North Africa, Sicily and Europe. I say this partly in jest as most of us know, there was little time to sit back and enjoy the moments except maybe when "bed-check Charley" tried to keep us awake at night while we lounged in our tailor-made foxholes.

I was privileged to have had the opportunity to work with Al during most of that time period and for the chance to meet Margaret and some of his wonderful family at many reunions. There we did have time to reminisce and become re-acquainted. I wish there was more but I'm thankful for every moment and looking forward to re-joining Al and his many friends down the road a piece—a road that I'm sure will have been de-mined and well repaired by Al and his crew.

Please accept the enclosed check in honor of Albert C. Ferrante.

Thank you,  
John N. Moore

**Written for Kenneth Hill, by his son, Wade Hill,**

**December 2006**

America has lost another hero, and we've lost our Dad. He, and thousands like him, answered the call 60 odd years ago when madmen threatened our very world. Many like our Dad were in uniform. He proudly served in the United States Army, earning the Silver Star, and Bronze Star with oak leaves, and a Purple Heart. Millions of other heroes stayed home and worked in defense and civilian jobs. Others worked on the farms, in the home, or in hundreds of other ways to support our men and women at war. None of them asked to be part of history, but each and every one of them played a vital part in saving freedom. Many lost their lives or limbs, others lost loved ones, and all lost their innocence. Everyone sacrificed, everyone suffered, and everyone benefited thanks to these brave men and women. Sadly, they are leaving us in greater numbers each day. And each one truly is an American Hero. As we join

**Richard L. Solar**

**Co. E—39th Infantry Regiment**

Separation Record

Military Occupations

Platoon Sergeant: Was leader of a 30 man rifle platoon. Trained and instructed men in the use of small arms

and machine guns. Taught hand-to-hand fighting and led men in combat. Was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge and two Bronze Battle Participation Stars. Served for thirteen months in the European of Operations.

Battles and Campaigns: Central Europe, Rhineland; GO 33 WD 45 as amended

Decorations and Citations: World War II Victory Medal; American Service Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal; Good Conduct Medal; Purple Heart GO#10 MAR 45

Sincerely  
Kathy Solar Tapelt



together today to celebrate the life and passing of Kenneth Weldon Hill, let us reflect on the wonderful legacy he and his contemporaries left us. NBC newsman Tom Brokaw called this the Greatest Generation. Of that we can be assured. Kenneth's children and grandchildren will remember him forever. We will be forever proud of what he has given us.

Yes, America has lost another hero, and we've lost our Dad.

**Kenneth Hill by Donald S. MacKere**

Ken joined Easy Company of the 39th as a rifle platoon leader at the end of the campaigns in North Africa. He fought in Sicily and the five campaigns in Europe, eventually becoming the commanding officer of Easy Company. He was an exceptional leader, calm under the worst of circumstances, brave and innovative in action, and easy to live with as a fellow soldier. I served under a number of company commanders in my years in the military, and he was by far the best of the lot. I respected him as a leader, and treasured him as a friend. We visited from time to time after the war and I shall always hold those times as special.

Sincerely  
Donald S. MacKerer



## CHAPTER NEWS

### FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

#### FLORIDA CHAPTER REUNION

Mark your calendar to attend the Florida Chapter Reunion on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 11, 12 & 13, 2007 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel & Inn Gateway located on 7470 Hwy. 192, Kissimmee, FL 34747. This is a change from the considered city of St. Augustine as stated in the last issue of the Octofoil. Reason for this change was brought about by the high cost to hold the Florida Chapter 2007 Reunion in the St. Augustine area. On February 27th, Marty & Rosalyn Gross, Emil & Audrey De Donato met in Orlando where they viewed three properties which they considered suitable to hold the Chapter Reunion. Of the 3 hotels that were seen, the Ramada Plaza was picked. The room rate will be \$65.00 per night ( a savings of \$24. 00 per night compared to the hotel in St. Augustine)... plus other savings in the Hospitality Room fees.

Details as to the program and costs to attend the Florida Chapter Reunion will be sent to "up-to-date" dues paying members approximately five weeks prior to opening day. Any member of the National Organization and members of the Sons & Daughters Auxiliary are welcome to attend. Simply send your name request to receive the Information Sheet & Order Form to: Emil J. De Donato, 3650 SW Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431, phone 352-489-4070 or email: MrDee82918@aol.com

#### NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Joe & Dottie Williams: In a note sent in together with his membership dues, Joe wrote that he had his pace maker replaced by a defibrillator which allows him to breathe better. Dottie is having some problems with her eyes. Our prayers go out to both Joe & Dottie. May our Good Lord grant them improvement in their health especially now in their golden years. Joe & Dottie worked very hard in the formation of the Florida Chapter and their participation in many National Reunions.

Eva Santos Dies: Henry Santos' sister Belle Deliz, sent in the obituary newspaper notice together with a note stating that Eva passed away on Tuesday, October 31, 2006 from a heart failure due to a persistent lung infection (pneumonia). Henry and Eva were extraordinary persons of the Florida Chapter. Henry was a dedicated worker in the Florida Chapter and in the National Organization while Eva was a devoted wife, soft spoken and extremely well loved person by everyone in the 9th Infantry Organization. Eva was buried next to Henry in Pawtucket, RI. Condolences may be sent to Mrs Belle Deliz, 645 87th Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Mrs. Deliz was a close friend of Eva.

Eddie Gray: In addition to his job as Secretary of the Florida Chapter, Ed teams up with Emil to update the Membership Roster. Eddie urges all members to send any change of address, phone numbers, email addresses to Emil who will update his records and then send a corrected roster to Eddie. In the event of a death, a note from a family member would be appreciated.

Cletis & Lula Winningham: In their Christmas note, Lula wrote that her husband fell on May 1, 2006 and broke his hip. He was operated on at the Crossville Hospital, Tennessee where the surgeons inserted three screws in the area that led to the socket. Cletis spent over 3 months in a rehabilitation center. Soon after returning home he suffered severe pain in his hip and legs. X-rays revealed that 2 of the screws worked loose and as a result, a complete hip joint was put in. After several months in rehab for the second time, Cletis returned home and is steadily recovering. The Winningshams suffered additional health problem when on July 5, 2006, Lula was operated on for a lump in her left breast. After a series of radiation treatments, Lula is back to normal again. Hopefully they will be well enough to attend our Florida Chapter reunion in June.

Dues Notices: The Florida Chapter year dues calendar begins on April 1st and ends on March 31st. Delinquent dues notices will go out soon after April 1st. Please check your Membership Card for expiration date. If your dues have expired or are soon to expire, send in \$13.00 for 3 years, \$5.00 for 1 year or \$50.00 for Life Membership to: Emil J. De Donato, 3650 SW Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431. Make checks out to: AL Chapter 9th Inf. Div. Assn. You may reach me by email at: MrDee82918@aol.com

Emil J. De Donato, Treasurer & Public Relations  
Officer

---

#### MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWS

Some very bad news to report—Rose Bonkowski, wife of John Bonkowski, has passed away, as has Jane Young, widow of John "Al" Young. Rose's funeral has already been held. There will be a memorial service for Jane in the spring.

Plans for the National Reunion are progressing well. We hope to see all of you in Grand Rapids on August 17, 18 & 19.

The next meeting of the Michigan Chapter is July 8, 2007 at my home at 7576 Gratiot, Columbus, Michigan. All are welcome. We will be putting in place the final touches for the reunion. We could use any help we can get, especially from the Sons & Daughters Auxiliary. These guys are getting older (not old, just older) and could use some help.

If anyone outside of those to whom I send the Michigan Newsletter would like to attend, please call me at 810-367-3496 for the time and travel instructions.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Wisniewski, Secretary, Michigan Chapter



## Greater New York Area Chapter

On Friday, December 15, 2006, the NY Area Chapter held its annual Holiday Party in the Christmas and Hanukkah-decorated community room of the Franklin Square Library in Franklin Square, Long Island, NY — our year-round command post.

Those members attending were: Ed Harris, Joe Killen, Marv & Barbara Levy, Joe & Sadie Maiale, John Tschup, Adolph Wadalavage & Alphonse Zenka. Spouses Emma Killen and Genevieve Zenka could not attend due to illness. Also, notably absent was our ailing chapter president Tony Varone, wife Viola and daughter Michele. We also missed our newest attending member Joe Charvat and wife Betty (due to prior commitments), and other regular attendees: Anton Dietrich and Bill Muldoon. Library staff was invited to join us after a short chapter meeting.

The meeting began at 12:00 PM. In the absence of President Varone, 2nd VP and Recording Secretary Marv Levy chaired the meeting. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and bowed their heads in observance as Chaplain Joe Killen honored our 4,581 comrades lost in war — POWs and MIAs — and those 9th men since gone. Minutes of the previous meeting and Financial Report were suspended. Members reported on their latest news: Killen, and Levy noted their telephone conversations

with Charlie and Esta LiBretto now residing in Texas. Esta was recuperating from intestinal surgery while celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary. Killen and yours truly also reported on the condition of Varone who also had intestinal surgery in a VA hospital but his healing has been slow and debilitating. Killen noted that wife Emma, after suffering a stroke last summer, was slowly recovering. She also had a pacemaker replaced. Genevieve Zenka, after an accident, was hospitalized with an infected leg wound. To all our ailing friends we offer our sincere well-wishes for a speedy recovery.

As a final matter of business NY Chapter officers for 2007 were installed. They are: President Marv Levy, 1st VP Joe Killen, 2nd VP Joe Charvat. Joe Maiale retains his position as Secretary/Treasurer. This scribe would present the honor plaque to outgoing prez Varone when he is well enough to see me. Meeting was adjourned about 12:45 PM.

The library staff then joined us for a holiday repast of Italian heroes and hot dishes. Wadalavage donated a fruit cake. Thanks to Joe & Sadie for their dedication to supply and set up the luncheon. Barbara Levy supplied the take-home holiday mementos for members. Party broke up around 3:00 PM and everyone wished each other happy holidays and headed home.

NY Chapter members reminder — it's now time to pay up your dues — increased for 2007! \$15.00 for one year, \$35.00 for 3 years and \$75.00 for a Lifetime Membership. Checks should be made payable to: The NY Area Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assn., and mailed to Treasurer Joseph Maiale, at 906 3rd Avenue, Franklin Square, NY 11010.

## March 6, 2007 UPDATE

**Happy to Hear From:** Dr. Marty Gross in Florida who is doing well after triple by-pass heart surgery; Charlie and Esta LiBretto. Esta is fine now since her intestinal surgery last fall. Happy Birthday to Charlie who just turned 88.

**Sick Call:** Varone is home, still recovering from his surgery under the care of wife Viola and daughter Michele. Emma, hospitalized again since February 1st for a leg circulation problem and toe ulcer, is due home shortly. Genevieve's leg wound is almost healed. Herminio Suarez still unsteady on his feet from old back surgery; Bill Muldoon improving following staph infection after left hip replacement; Tony DeRobertis can't drive now because of poor vision after an auto accident; Carl Winter who turned 90 on March 10th has an equilibrium problem; Adolph Wadalavage has leg circulation problems but still manages to attend chapter meetings and reunions. John Tschup who had open heart surgery last fall is doing well. The 9th Inf. Div. recently lost some old old friends: Charlie Hoffman, 15th Eng. passed away February 27, 2007. LiBretto informed me that Selma Golub, wife of Fred, also passed away. Our heartfelt condolences to their families.

## Richard Kent (cont.)

He was assigned to the 39th Regiment for the Sicily Campaign and during the time the 9th was in England. When Colonel Robert Stumpf left the Division to assume command of a regiment in the 106th Division, Kent became CO of the 3rd Battalion of the 39th on Utah Beach—a position he held for the remaining months of the war.

In 1947, he returned to this country and served for a time as Professor of Military Science and Technology, JROTC in Houston, Texas. He attended C & GS in 1952 where he again had contact with his old commander Col. Stumpf. Both he and Colonel Stumpf went through the Army War College together in 1955-56.

As a Colonel he was assigned as Deputy Chief International Plans and Operations, Army General Staff. He had one year as Commander of the 29th Infantry in Korea.

His most prestigious position was that of Executive Officer to Under Secretary of the Army. He retired from service in 1970 and lived for several years in Montgomery, Alabama.

Note: Details for this report came from a personal letter written in 1991 by Colonel Kent to Don Lavender, veteran of I Company of the 39th. Circumstances of Kent's passing or his final years are not available to Lavender.



How does one write with a broken heart?

Where to begin?

On the night of February 2, 2007, my beloved wife and angel Rose was blessed with the Sacrament of Last Rites as she held her rosary. With her loving family praying at her bedside, we held hands and whispered our final farewells when the Good Lord called her into Heaven for all eternity. Now we pray that one day we'll all meet her again and be together forever and ever.

In late 2006, blood tests performed during Rose's annual physical exam indicated a problem with her liver. In early January, additional tests including various CAT scans revealed evidence of liver cancer. Although she must have been feeling ill for some time, she didn't complain. As we waited for the next scheduled doctor appointment and diagnoses, she became very weak as her health declined quickly. We finally convinced her to be admitted to the hospital, where she passed away peacefully 6 days later.

We thank Secretary Marge Wisiewski for passing the sad word along to the Michigan Chapter. We're grateful to her, Marilyn Martin, and Tom & Carol Saunders for paying their final respects and attending the Funeral Mass. And thanks to all those that were there in spirit. Our deep appreciation for all of the lovely cards, phone calls, and kind words that came at our time of sadness. We're not mentioning any name for fear of missing anyone.

Now here is something I wish to share with all of you, which I believe came about by Divine Intervention. After attending the first Mass without our Loved One, our son Dennis went out to bring my car closer to the church for my convenience due to the inclement weather. A parishioner whom I've never met before spotted my Ninth Infantry Division license plate. He asked my son "Who is the Old Reliable?" Dennis replied "My dad," and pointed towards me as I exited the church. The stranger approached me and put his arms around me saying, "Bless you and all of the men in the Ninth Infantry Division who served and sacrificed during WWII for our great Country!" I proudly told him that I was in the Ninth Recon. He replied that he was also in the Ninth, having served in Vietnam. Then I informed him about our Resolution of Support that was sent to General Westmoreland in 1965, which he forwarded throughout his Command. The stranger remembered the occasion and thanked me again as we departed.

Our encounter got me to thinking. Perhaps the time has come to set aside our differences and open our arms to those gallant men of the "new" Ninth Division from the Vietnam Era, and ask them to join us if they are still willing to do so. I believe that it can happen.

I'll leave you now with this final thought. Share and cherish every moment of your life with your loved ones.

Enjoy those God-given golden opportunities that quickly disappear with each passing day. Once they're gone, they are gone forever.

Respectfully,

John Bonkowski 586-296-1239

*(John adds that "the verbiage bordered in black come from an old country tradition back home, which brought the sad news of the loss of a loved one. How well I remember when my mom and dad would receive such a letter in years gone by".)*

### NY Chapter (cont.)

**Like to Hear From:** Dan and Marie Quinn, Anton and Florence Dietrich, Bill Canales, Al Lipton, Dr. George Nicklin, Mike Gatto, Dommer and Donna Miller, Ed Leddy, Joe Rzesniowiecki — and other Greater NY Chapter 9th men everywhere!

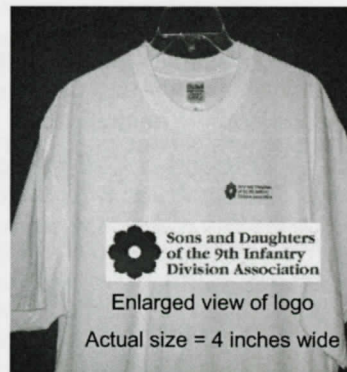
Don't forget to attend the chapter's 9th Infantry Division's Memorial Service at the VA National Cemetery in Pinelawn, Long Island on Saturday, May 19, 2007. We meet in the cemetery parking lot at 10:30 AM and march to the Service Rostrum at 11:00 AM. After the service we have a brief meeting in the community room and have lunch at a local diner — at chapter's expense.

Marv Levy, Co. A, 60th Inf.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Sons and Daughters Auxiliary Fundraiser

Get your official Sons and Daughters T-Shirt from the only authorized source. **Order now before they are gone!!** Available sizes are S, M, L, XL, XXL. Outfit the whole family.



The shirts are made by Gildan Active Wear from 100% cotton and preshrunk. They are machine washable and tumbled dry. Price is \$10.00 per shirt which includes shipping and handling costs. Can't beat a deal like this!!

Payment by **CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY**.

Make payable to **Mary Cooper** and send your request with sizes and quantities and payment to:

**Mary Cooper**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery after receipt of order. Shipped by USPS. All profits go to "The Octofoil" production expenses.



Seeking Information Letter

I'm writing today to ask that the following information about my deceased father be published in the next issue of the Octofoil, which I understand will be distributed in the spring of 2007.

My father, Claude Allen Wagner, was born in Belle Vernon, PA and lived there until he joined the service. Following the War, he returned to the U.S. and lived in Detroit, MI and eventually settled in Waterford, MI. He and my mother, Virginia, lived there until 1991 at which time they moved to Virginia to be closer to me. My father was a member of the 9th Infantry Division and I believe a member of the 47th Infantry Regiment Combat Team. He served in the Battle of the Bulge and the Bridge at Remagen. He was a sharpshooter and a radio operator.

My father did not speak in detail of the war so I have no additional information about his service. He passed away in November 1996, and I have registered him on the WWII Memorial Web site. I would very much like to hear from anyone who might have known my father. I am sending, under separate cover, a photo of my father, which I hope you will publish along with this letter. I have provided my address and phone number above (*see below*) for contact purposes.

My thanks and appreciation for all that you did and continue to do in the name of the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Claudia Ellen Wagner Cronin

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Seeking Information Letter

Dear Comrades,

Way back in Dec. 1945 I was transferred to the 9th Div. from the 94th Inf. Div. when they were getting ready to be sent home.

I was assigned to the Div. Postal Section and ultimately wound up in Munich, Germany until I was shipped home in May 1946.

I did not have the privilege of serving with the 9th during combat, but I did serve with a bunch of swell guys who were.

I receive and read the Octofoil when I receive some; and have never been able to find any of my APO section buddies.

I am writing again to try to locate any of the guys I knew.

Perhaps this letter will find a few.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Allen B. Sperling

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Marilyn L. Martin**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Enclosed is a check in memory of Rose Bonkowski.

Hope you are warmer than we are, everyone is getting tired of this zero and below temperature.

Thanks for all of your help.

**Co. G—39th Inf. And Battalion**

**Olido J. Starro**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Enclosed is a check for 3 yrs. dues. What's left, in memory of Angelo Ferrara, Co. G-39th Inf.

Comrades:

Every time I think of all the reunions I attended I want to cry, for I miss all you guys & comrades (I love you all). God bless the 9th Division.

P.S. I have been to sick to travel but my heart and soul are there always.

**Don Lavender**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

9 November 2006

RE: Richard Kent

I see by the recent Octofoil that Col. Kent died. I have not had contact with him these last few years but I did have letters from him previously.

Enclosed is an obituary of sorts taken from some of his letters

My e-mail address is: donlav@juno.com

(see page 6 for obituary)

Ronald MacArthur Hirst

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Christmas 2006

To the 9th Family:

The year has been dismal for the Nation but bright and cheerful for the Hirst family. Lexi and Ronald Paul are now a wedded pair—Ingeborg's newly constructed sweet pea ring and rose/herb garden were a huge success—thanks to the Bush administration are winters are without snow—the Hessian celebration of its 60th anniversary of the stated constitution was celebrated (WITHOUT representation of SHAEF) - the German football team did as well as expected at the world soccer championships (the flag still waves in Ronald's study) - We've updated the kitchen and found (working) maid—and at Snakt Nikolaustag we two are still mobile—there is little more that one can ask. Besides, this year we are not going to dwell on things over which we have no control.

Ronald is flying in from California this month (before Christmas, he can not stay longer and his bride's business will not permit a delay over the holidays). At least we'll have his welcome company for some five days.

The total year was a bit silent. With restrictions on travel (self-imposed), we've no offering of a descriptive trip to Normandy this year nor on to the former Hessian/Thuringia border (which is a ecological find after over 30 years of 'NO TRESPASSING'). The veterans of St. Alinograd have dissolved their association as have the P-47 Thunderbolt pilots and several other veterans organizations. 'twill not be long ere they too become as rare as the present WWI veterans organizations. But contacts are continued on a private basis. In all frankness, we were saddened that the SHAEF veterans were not invited to the Hessian celebration—after all, Eisenhower was the 'FOUNDER' of the state.

We stay close with our relatives—maternal and paternal, on both sides of the family. Matter of fact, Ronald received a visit this year from one he'd not seen since they both attended Balsam School, Stratford, Wisconsin in 1934 !!! Came with a niece on a tour of Germany making the Luther—visits. Yes, and so it is that even they too become numbered—uncles, aunts—forget it! Nieces/nephews of the first and 'second' grade.

Regardless, we make every effort to stay in touch—we acknowledge EVERY bit of correspondence. Too bad not all remember that the military address is NOT our mailing address. That is above in the letterhead. If you've FAX capability, try 011 49 611 8907845—we'd love to hear from you.

The American holidays we celebrate with German friends. We've found it interesting, over the years, to invite them and show them—in meals—and in pictures—and in conversation which each one is all about. It has proven a great treat over the years and thus we've educated any number over the past thirty-odd years. ( have we been here that long !!!)

With that, good Friends, we bid you adieu for another year for, in all frankness, we'll not hear from you again for another 365 days. Take care of one another. We miss you all. As always, the door is open = you've but to come.

LTC L.J. McLaughlin, Ret.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am enclosing a check for the Memorial Fund for my good friend and fellow soldier Eddie W. Bleck who died Dec. 1, 2006.

"Ed" was the mail clerk and forward CP clerk in "A" Company, 47th Inf. Regt.

"Ed's" original name during his service was "Blecharcz". He changed it to "Bleck" after the war.

His home address was 16870 Bardbury Ave., Middleburg Hts, Ohio. His wife's name is Doris.

Please do the necessary.

Very truly yours,  
Larry McLaughlin

Co. F—47th Inf.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I'm writing this letter for Dan. These are his thoughts, and he can not sit back and say nothing. He would like to see the OCTOFOIL continue its format as it has been for 60 years! These newcomers (including W. Robey) who ever they are, should have their own newspaper and print it the way that they want it!

Leave ours alone. It is O.K., it is fine!

As for Bill Mauldin's cartoons, I think they are funny. Please continue printing them.

Something for the Memorial Fund in memory of Jack Scully, Eddie Egan, "Guggy" and all our deceased members.

Dan Quinn  
(written by Marie Quinn)



Co. I—39th Infantry Regiment

Mrs. J.C. Dawson

I received the Sept-Oct-Nov-Dec, 2006 issue and I think it is a nice addition. I've enjoyed the old format also of the Octofoil

At this time we do not have the dates for our next Co. I Reunion. Maybe will send them in before next addition.

I'm enclosing a copy of an article I sent in before this addition was printed and I guess it got lost.

To me, this article written by Jayci Blake, then age 11, was very meaningful through the eyes of a great granddaughter of a WWII veteran, PFC J.C. Dawson, WIA.

The Reunions she has attended since she was 4 years old and knowing the men of Co. I-39th meant so much to her.

I hope you can print at least a portion of her thoughts.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J.C. Dawson

Widow of J.C. Dawson

### **A Visit to the Past**

**by Jayci Blake**

**October 17, 2005**

This summer I had a once in a lifetime chance to take a journey across the world to places I could only dream about going, and I will never forget the day that changed the way I would look at life forever. My trip this summer to France and England was amazing, and there wasn't anything that we did that I didn't love doing, but one of the things that really touched me was our visit to the past, World War II and the Beaches of Normandy.

My great grandfather, J.C. Dawson or as we called him "Paw" (who I'm named after), served during World War II in the 9th Infantry Division and landed on Omaha Beach one day after D-day. Later on in the war, he was shot in his upper right chest, piercing his right lung. He lived through it and earned a purple heart and came back home to his wife and daughter, Mae "Maw" Dawson and Ann Dawson (who later became Ann Kaker and had my mother).

Paw kept in touch with his fellow soldiers and went to their reunion every year he could. Ever since I was four years old, I have gone to that same reunion with my great-grandmother, Maw, and my grandma, Ann, even after Paw died. I'll never forget listening to all the amazing stories of survival these brave men have to tell.

After all those years of learning what this war

meant to our country and the people of our country and wondering what he had gone through during his journey of battles, I finally got the chance to see Paw's stories come to life. I got to see the land he set foot on not so long ago, when war broke out and when Hitler's army finally fell to our mercy.

You can imagine what excitement I felt in being able to go and walk on the very land where only sixty ago, people were being killed and bombs were falling from the sky like rain pouring down into an ocean of fire. Even though things weren't as vivid and some things have moved since the war, I could still feel the silence of all the souls who fell on that ground, never to speak again.

When we arrived at the landing site, I was totally drawn in by the importance of this landmark. Some of the guns were still standing; some only rotators on the base were left. Huge craters left by bombs were filled up by the feeling of sadness and grief. The sound of the clear blue ocean wave brushing up against the cliff sounded like distant voices telling you their story of the war, but you had to listen closely to understand.

Some German bunker's lay in piles of rock, destroyed by the fiery explosions that our troops fired down, while others lay untouched, as if ready for their troops to return. The one we went inside of made me realize that I had never thought about the other side, about the French soldiers and the German soldiers, what they had to go through. As we slowly walked down the stairs into the bunker, where Hitler's armies waited for the attack of the Americans, you could feel the emptiness of what used to be here and will never return. The rooms were small and only a small light in the center of the ceiling was lit. Mold covered the walls and a musty smell filled my lungs as we ventured deeper into the underground building. I couldn't imagine having to sleep in such a dark and cold home. As we headed back toward the surface, I began to think about the attack that happened on D-day, some German soldiers were probably sleeping when American bombs dropped and they never woke up.

As we left the landing site, we headed toward Omaha Beach, where submarines landed on the sandy shore. What was hard for me to believe was that only sixty years ago, people were being killed and men were fighting for their lives, but as we were walking along the beach people were just playing in the water, going on with their lives, acting as if this was a normal beach on beautiful summer day and just enjoying themselves. It was hard to picture the blood, the tragedy, the sorrow and pain that happened here, but it's amazing how people move on to better things and get on with their life.

As we walked down the beach, you could still sense that something has happened here, not of sadness and grief, but of pride and of overcoming what happened. I'm not saying they just let themselves forget, because no human being can ever forget something as tragic as that,

*(continued on page 14)*



but they overcame this sadness of the memory and showed the world that France and The United States of America were proud of the soldiers that gave their lives, and they will be missed, but we will celebrate this day instead of mourning it.

I'll never forget that day, I learned how the power of war can lead to destruction and sorrow, and how when two countries come together and fight as one, they can beat their enemy. I learned that if you listen to history, you can learn about your future, but you can't change it. The most important thing I learned that day can't be taught in classrooms or heard about on the news, one of my friends (who also was a People to People Ambassador) showed me in a verse that he wrote, "There's no such debt as a life that's been paid, just remember that yours has been saved, and cherish each and every day." - Ben Dawson, 11 years old, Ohio.

#### Co. M—60th Infantry Regiment

Harold L. Billington

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Enclosed is a donation to the Association Memorial Fund in remembrance of Edwin Lusk, Robert, Bovanizer, Joseph M. Gustamachio, Siebert Vicars and Philip Jackson Gilbert.

Some obituaries are enclosed that may not have been sent to the Octofoil at this time.

Hello to all 9th Division fellows and ladies along with all the "M" Co. group.

Harold has been doing quite well, does have good days as well as bad, doesn't walk. He does ask if I've heard from any of the "M" Co. At present he is in a VA Contract Nursing home in Lincoln, IL. Fifteen miles from home instead of 100 miles one way to Danville, IL VA.

Sincerely,

Mildred A. Billington

#### Co. G—47th Infantry Regiment

(September 30, 2006)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Pardon the hand scratching. I can't type and I dislike the pick and peck method.

Just finished reading the OCTOFOIL and wish to pass on a few thoughts about the latest effort to upset an organization that has held together for over 60 years.

Having been in local and state politics, I have a pretty fair understanding of the machinations of self serving persons seeking their own personal objectives.

Several years ago, there was a strong effort by

Some west coast Association members to integrate the new post WWII 9th Infantry Division men into our Association. Thanks to the great efforts by devoted men like Henry Santos (RIP) this move was defeated soundly at a very raucous meeting.

Now it seems that a similar effort is being made to change the format of our familiar "OCTOFOIL". Age and infirmities preclude many of us from attending distant meetings. With a diminished number of veterans in attendance, it would not take a great effort by a controlled group to accomplish any purpose such as changing the format of the "OCTOFOIL". In the interests of ALL the Association's members, I suggest that if and after such a proposal is made, the next and post meeting OCTOFOIL contain a proxy vote to be counted with all votes if and when such a proposal is put to a vote. I may have rambled a bit, but I believe you can get my feelings.

Incidentally, the reference to "Sons and Daughters" in your letter was right on the mark. Our Jimmy is one of their members and I love them all. However, let them and us all remember that they are just that—"Sons and Daughters", not members of the 9th Infantry Division Association.

God bless you and yours, and many thanks for doing a thankless job.

Al Farese

#### Co. M—47th Infantry Regiment

(October 28, 2006)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Joe,

Pardon the red ink-4 days 'til payday.

I have a question and two more 9th authors to cite in my next piece on The Literary Ninth.

Who told you of Col. & Ms. Kent's demise? He had a son in the Army, a career officer, but I can't recall his first name. Was he your source?

Please add to the piece I sent for the next Octofoil:

"Uncertain Seasons" by Elizabeth Shelfer Morgan niece of 1st LT William H. Shelfer, KIA with 1st Bn, 60th Inf. on 11 Aug. '44. This is essentially a family memoir made up mostly of letters back & forth. He joined B/60 fresh out of OCS in Aug. '42 about the same time I joined M/47 from Ft. Benning. This book was published by University of Alabama Press, 1944

"The Cage" by Dr. William Butler, 39th Inf., self-published.

Butler was a battalion surgeon with I/39 for most of the war. This memoir is from a diary he kept. The book contains some of the best battle scenes I've ever read and his insights of what keeps a man going under such stress is not only correct but unusual.

(continued on page 15)



"A Kasserine Beginning" by Col. (Ret.) Evert Stong, CO of 26th FA Bn. Who won a Silver Star at Thala, self-published. The hard-cover book is beautifully printed and bound.

All the best, Red

P.S. What address, if any, do you have for Dr. William Butler, once of A/9Med. He had a home in Kalamazoo, MI but letter returned and phone no. no longer works. I'd like to renew the contact.

Also, what street address in Charlotte, NC do you have for Roy G. Hudnell, once of B/60, who you wrote of in last Octofoil who had been top dog of State's Chapter of American POW's? Lisa Froug-Hirano's uncle Edward Weiss was CO of B/60 and KIA as such. If she hasn't heard of this fellow in Charlotte I'm sure she'd like to.

#### Co. C—47th Infantry Regiment

Jack A. Collier

Dear William: This letter has taken entirely too long to tell you "Thank You" for this fine job you did on the Octofoil. The Assn. was sure lucky when you, John Sabato, and Mary Cooper became a AUX. to our Assn. I have not forgotten the rest of you "SONS & DAUGHTERS" either. Bless you ALL. This has been a wonderful Org., but without you young people we were not going to be very active for very long. I do not want to forget Bill Robey, he has chaired 2 great Reunions, and working on a THIRD.

Going to my first reunion in 1971 was the smartest thing that I ever did, of course my wife attended with me. We also haven't missed on since. At our first reunion one of our Company's great Sgt.'s was there, also the Co. Exec. Officer, Randy Brown, and Bill Klauz. Besides all the cities we have been to ATTENDING REUNIONS, due to friends in the 47th we have been to FT. LEONARD WOOD, FT. LEAVENWORTH, and FT. BENNING, for different functions. What a wonderful bunch of old soldiers we have met.

Thank you again for a great job with the OCTO-FOIL. I have been wanting to get this letter off for so long, thank you again

Best Regards, Jack A. Collier

John J. Clouser

Dear Mr. Sauers,

At the suggestion of Bill Robey, I am writing to express my gratitude for your willingness to assume the duties of the editor of "The Octofoil". The membership of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, as you well know, is aging and there are fewer men able and willing to assume the duties and work of the positions which require such. So, it is good to see members of the Sons and

Daughters willing to take over from us "old" members, and at the same time work with us to continue the activities of the Association.

I was very impressed with the format and composition of your first issue. It is very readable and is in keeping with the previous issues over the years. The labeling of the various sections helps in reading the paper. Another good idea was the separation of the "Taps" letters from "Mail Call". I hope you find it possible to continue providing this service for us.

For consideration in the make up of future issues, I would like to suggest that space for letters, articles, etc. be compacted to there is less white space and require fewer pages.

I do not remember if I have met you at the reunions, but your cohort, John Sabato, I have known since he was a small child, and I regard him as a good friend, as was his father.

I am enclosing a partial copy of the news letter from my Korean Association. You may find some things worth adopting. The use of color in some features may enhance the appearance of the paper, if the cost is within the budget.

Sincerely, John J. Clouser

#### 62nd REUNION REPORT (cont.)

on the page with the names and addresses of the Officers and Board of Governors.

When Joe Killen quit on us as Secretary and Editor, he left us in a bad situation, and since then we have acquired a new Octofoil Editor and have had some trouble finding someone to fill the office of Secretary. President Jim Dawson asked me to help by taking the job, but I did not want the job permanently, so he asked me to take on the job as Acting Secretary until the reunion in Grand Rapids. So I accepted that job and am now Treasurer and Acting Secretary. Any thing you need, you can write to me about and I will try to solve your problem.

More in the next issue of the Octofoil

Bill Robey, Co-Chairman

Treasurer/Acting Secretary



## Reunion Command Post Directions

### From Detroit:

Take I-96 to Exit 43B (28th St. East). The exit will take you to the right. Continue on 28th St. through one stoplight, which is Kraft Ave. The Crowne Plaza will be on your right just after the stoplight.

### From Chicago:

Take I-94 towards Michigan. At I-94 exit 34 bear left onto I-196. I-196 will turn into I-96. Take I-96 to Exit 43B. Exit will curve to the right and will take you back under the highway. Continue on 28th St. Through one stoplight, which is Kraft Ave. The Crowne Plaza will be on your right just after the stoplight.

### From Traverse City:

Take Hwy. 72 to Kalkaska US 131 South. Take to I-96 East. Take exit 43B (28th St. East). Exit will curve to the right and take you back under the highway. Continue on 28th St. through one stoplight. The Crowne Plaza will be on your right just after the stoplight.

### From Lansing:

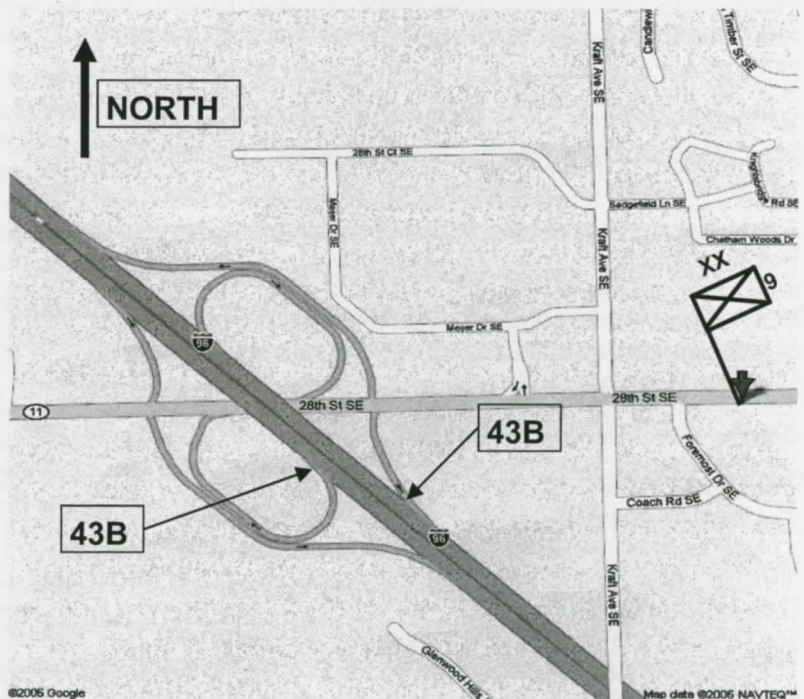
Take I-96 West to Exit 43B. Exit will take you to the right. The first light will be Kraft Ave. Proceed through the light. The Crowne Plaza will be on your right just passed the light.

### From Benton Harbor:

Take I-94 to I-196. I-196 will turn into I-96. Follow to Exit 43B. Exit will take you to the right. You will go back under the highway. Continue on 28th St. to the first light, which is Kraft Ave. Proceed through the light. The Crowne Plaza will be on your right just passed the light.

Google  
Maps

Address 5700 28th St SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-957-1770 or Toll Free: 1-888-957-9575



**Cartoon 2. "Fer Christ' sake, Lootenint, don't look so damn zippy or we'll end up carryin' d'heavy weapons too."**

Courtesy of Henry G. "Red" Phillips

***The Deadline for  
the submission  
of copy for the  
next issue is  
June 20, 2007***



**62nd Annual Reunion**  
**Friday to Sunday—August 17, 18, and 19, 2007**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel**  
**5700 28th Street SE**  
**Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546**

Make payments by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER payable to: "62nd Reunion 2007"

Mail the completed Registration Form with payment to:

William G. Robey, Reunion Co-Chairman

1005 Elkhart Street, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Deposits of \$150.00 per person must be made by May 15, 2007. Final payments **MUST BE MADE BY JULY 1, 2007**. Reservations made after July 1, 2007 will be subject to room availability. If final payment is not made by July 1, 2007, then the deposit will be refunded. All reservations **MUST BE MADE** with this form. **DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT**. For more information, call Bill Robey, toll free at 1-866-229-2377, pin #3322. You may use a copy of the registration form if you do not want to cut up your Octofoil.



# THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Make checks payable to: The Ninth Infantry Division Association, Inc.

Send to: William G. Robey, Treasurer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Enclosed please find dues for:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_



## Officers and Board of Governors

October 2006

### Officers

James C. Dawson, President—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Thomas Hatton—1st VP—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Elmer Wagner—2nd VP—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Emil Langer—3rd VP—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
William G. Robey—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
George Brown—Jdg.Adv—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
National Secretary— <u>Office Vacant ; William G. Robey, ACTING</u>		

### Board Members—Terms Expiring 2007

Jack A. Collier—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Elmer Wagner—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Jack R. Blann—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Martin R. Gros—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Anthony Varone—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Albert Perna—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

### Terms Expiring 2008

James C. Dawson—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Joseph Maiale—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Lawrence Kaufman—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Herbert Stern—	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

### Terms Expiring 2009

Leo Hope—	[REDACTED]	6 [REDACTED]
Adolph Wadalavage—	[REDACTED]	7 [REDACTED]
Richard Irwin—	[REDACTED]	2 [REDACTED]
Ralph Williams—	[REDACTED]	7 [REDACTED]
Robert Lewis -	[REDACTED]	7 [REDACTED]

### Editor

William Sauers—2	[REDACTED]	3 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		

## MISSING MEMBERS ROSTER

We need your help to locate the following members. Octofoil's have been returned with no forwarding address. If you know their whereabouts, please contact the editor. Thank you.

Gladys Avery, Washington, MO

Mrs. M. Cohen, Flushing, NY

George Conolly, North Palm Beach, FL

Mrs. V. D'Addona, Bronx, NY

Al Eisen, New York, NY

Sidney Forman, Palm Beach, FL

Harold Gebhardt, Phoenix, AZ

E.H. Gross, Bath, PA

William Hilton, Rock Hill, SC

M.A. Kiser, Fairfax, VA

Edward Koscinski, Los Angeles, CA

Vincent Mann, West Orange, NJ

James J. McNamee, Madison, VA

Louis Mojica, Gulfport, MS

Mrs. R.J. Nichols, South Dennis, MA

Frances Nugent, Green Valley, AZ

Edward Orr, Kittanning, PA

Harold F. Schatz Jr., Mount Joy, PA

Anthony M. Tooley, Pewaukee, WI

John Young, Sawyer, OK

John H. DeGraff, Raleigh, NC

## SONS & DAUGHTERS AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

Get your heirloom mug while they last!

This is an 11 oz. white ceramic mug with the logo on both sides.

It is dishwasher and microwave safe.

Payment by **CHECK** or **MONEY ORDER ONLY**.

**CONTACT THE EDITOR FOR PRICING & SHIPPING INFO**

All profits will be used to defray "The Octofoil" production expenses.

**GOING  
FAST!!!**



# THE OCTOFOIL

2960 West 234th Street

Torrance, CA 90505

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT # 48  
MERRIFIELD VA 220

Return Service Requested

