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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, January/February/March 2008

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil

Jan.-Feb.-Mar.
2008

Volume LXIII, No. 1

63rd ANNUAL REUNION PROGRAM

Rosen Centre Hotel
Orlando, Florida

www.octofoil.org

Friday, August 22, 2008

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.—Registration-Hospitality: Salon 11
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Board of Governors meeting: Salon 7
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.—Reception, Pizza Party, & Dance: Signature 2

Saturday, August 23, 2008

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.—Breakfast: Grand E
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Registration-Hospitality: Salon 11
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—Memorial Service: Grand E
Please be seated by 9:15 a.m.
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Group Photos: Location to be determined
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Association Business Meeting: Signature 1
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon & Business Meeting: Salon 7
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Sons and Daughters Business Meeting: Salon 8
6:15 p.m. Buses leave hotel for Medieval Times Dinner & Show
(Dinner @ 7:00 p.m., Show @ 8:00 p.m.)
Return to hotel approximately 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 24, 2008 (Free day for church, sightseeing, golf etc. on your own)

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Breakfast: Grand E
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.—Registration-Hospitality: Salon 11
2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.—Board of Governors meeting: Salon 7
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.—Reception with open bar and hors d'oeuvres: Grand E
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.—Gala Banquet: Grand E

Monday, August 25, 2008

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Breakfast: Grand E
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—Hospitality Room: Salon 11
8:00 a.m. to ??? Say goodbye, check out and head for home

Additional 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion the hotel rate is \$90.00 per room per day.



President
Emil Langer

President's Message

For those of you who will be arriving early to the Rosen Centre Hotel be advised that I will also arrive one day early. This will give us a chance to get together and get caught up on the latest news and any topics about the Association you would like to discuss with me.

I hope you have good health the rest of the year and are able to attend our 63rd Reunion in Orlando, Florida. The planning is complete and we should have another wonderful get together to renew our friendships.

See you on Thursday, August 21st.

Emil Langer, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Inside this issue:

Secty./Treas. Message	2
Tip Of The Hat	3
Taps Sounded	4
Taps Obituaries	5
Taps Tributes	6
Chapter/Auxiliary News	7
Mail Call	8
A Warning From The Woods	12
History Road	14
The Literary Ninth	16
Membership Update Form	17
2008 Reunion Room Reservation Form	18

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.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

This article is very important. Read all of it and please comply with the requests made in this article.

In the last issue of *The Octofoil* we included a form to be filled out to bring our membership/mailling list up to date. We had hoped for a much greater response than we actually got. We mailed out over 1,100 copies of *The Octofoil*, and to date have only heard from about 175 of you. What happened to the other 925 of you? This form is very important and should be completed by everyone who gets *The Octofoil*. Please complete the one in this issue and return it to me right away. Please include a copy of your membership card if you have one, and if you do not have one, then let me know when the last time you paid your dues and I will send you an updated card.

We have some members who live outside the U.S. and we have not heard from them in several years. Carlos Esteva and Fermin Martinez live in Puerto Rico; Abraham Strom lives in Israel and Ronald Hirst lives in Wiesbaden, Germany. We need to hear from you as to the status of your membership also, and we need proof of your dues payments; if you are cash paying, one or three year members, or life members.

Take note of your address on this issue of *The Octofoil*. We now have a way to print the date of your dues/subscription expiration on the mailing label. This is the only notice you will receive about when your dues/subscription are due. Remember that we operate on a **FISCAL YEAR** basis and not on a calendar year. All members who pay their dues in cash, whether one or three years at a time, expire on June 30 of each year. If your mailing label says your dues/subscription expire in Jun 2007, then they expired on June 30, 2007, and you are now delinquent. Please catch up right away.

Our only income is from dues/subscriptions. When we lose a member, we lose money. We have heard this year from several very generous members. Some members, some widows, and descendants have donated money to help offset the cost of producing *The Octofoil*, and some have donated money to the general fund. This all contributes to the well-being of our Association. Keep up the good work. For those who are looking for a way to help, but do not have the money right now, make a provision in your will to leave something to the Association.

The Association **IS SOLVENT** and we are **NOT** about to go bankrupt or anything drastic like that. We need to make sure that we stay that way.

The chart on page 3 shows our membership breakdown. This chart was done by our Editor and shows that we have a little less than 300 life members and a little over 300 widows. We also have 273 members whose dues are unpaid, some as far back as 2001, and 45 subscription lapses. This must be corrected right away. If your dues/subscription are not paid up to date, **this will be the LAST issue of *The Octofoil* you will receive.** Let a word to the wise be sufficient. The date on the mailing label will be on every issue from now on, so you will be able to keep track of when your dues/subscription must be paid.

When you fill out the Membership Update Form on page 17, why don't you fill out your Room Reservation Form on page 18 for the reunion at the same time.

In addition to the above, the Post Office continues to return *The Octofoil* marked "TEMPORARILY AWAY RETURN TO SENDER." We have no idea what this means, except that we must hold your issue and then re-mail it at additional cost. If you are going to be away from home, either have the Post Office hold your mail, have it forwarded to where you are going, or have a neighbor pick up your mail. You can also note on the Membership Update Form on page 17 your alternate mailing address along with the dates and our Editor will make sure your address is

(continued on page 3)



OCTOFOIL LIBRARY PROJECT

The "Octofoil Library Project" is the new name for The Literary Ninth Digitizing Project which has been in the planning stages for quite some time. It is now ready for all Ninth Infantry Division Association member participation. In a nutshell, we hope to raise sufficient funds to begin the process of indexing and scanning all books, manuscripts, photos, combat records, and old issues of *The Octofoil*. The end result will be one or two Digital Video Disc's (DVD's) that contain the rich history of the 9th Infantry Division during World War II and subsequent evolution of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

Our first step will be to focus on the 53 books and manuscripts listed in our bibliography published under the heading "The Literary Ninth" in Volume LXII, No. 4, Oct-Nov-Dec, 2007 issue of *The Octofoil*. We have estimated that to properly organize, index, and scan to DVD's all the various materials will require approximately \$10,000. To get the project off the ground Mr. Henry G. "Red" Phillips has graciously agreed to donate his materials consisting of approximately 10,700 pages. Some of you may have materials that you would like to donate for scanning to add to the history.

Why do this? It is time to ensure that future generations have access to the history in a single and convenient format. There are many descendants, historians, and people who have general interest in military history that will benefit from this endeavor. We intend to offer copies of the master DVD's free of charge to all interested parties and eventually add the contents to the Association's web site (www.octofoil.org).

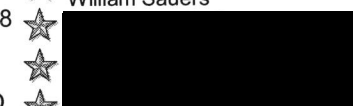
How will this happen? Mr. Roger Gudenkauf owner of Rocky Mountain Microfilm & Imaging Inc. has offered the services of his firm. Mr. Gudenkauf has the personnel and equipment to safely and accurately scan our materials and produce the DVD's. He is also giving us a significant cost break as he has become a champion of our cause.

How long will it take? We estimate that the master DVD's will take approximately one to two years to produce.

How can you help? Two ways. First, your tax deductible financial contributions are a must and most welcome. Second, if you have materials that you want to have scanned please contact any one of those listed below.

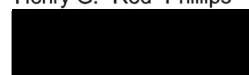
Please make your checks payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association** and send to the project coordinator earmarked for the **Octofoil Library Project**.

Project Coordinator:
William Sauers



NOTE: DVD's contain more storage space than CD's

Military Historian:
Henry G. "Red" Phillips



Assistant Coordinator:
Terry Barnhart

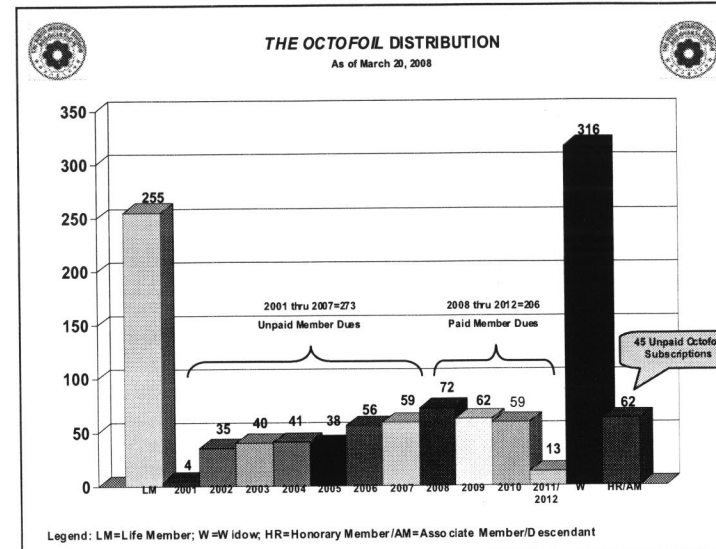


(Secty-Treas. continued from page 2)

updated for that particular issue. Anything you can do to help correct this problem will be greatly appreciated.

I hope to see many of you in Orlando in August.

Bill Robey, Secretary-Treasurer



63rd Reunion Update Report

As I have done in past reunions, I am listing here the individual costs for the various events of this reunion for those who are not staying at the hotel. Please pick out the events you want to attend and send a check to me for the total.

For any who live in Florida, even though you might not be members of the Florida Chapter, please remember that there will be a Hospitality Room for the Florida Chapter as well as a Hospitality Room for the National Association. I hope that the Florida people will not forget that they are foremost members of the National Association and won't neglect to make use of the National Hospitality Room.

The Florida Chapter Hospitality Room assignment has not been determined. This assignment will also contain a reminder that all payments for the reunion must be made by July 1, and anyone later than that must take the risk that there will not be any rooms available at our special group rate. It is far better to make your reservation now, and if you have to cancel later, then it is much easier to cancel than if it is to get a room at the last minute.

Now, as to the individual costs for each event for those not staying at the hotel. These costs are listed on a per person basis, and there are a couple of them that have separate children's prices for those under 12 years of age.

Friday night Pizza Part with pitchers of beer	\$31.00 -
Also soft drinks for those who want them	
Children under 12	\$20.00
Saturday, Sunday and Monday breakfasts	\$20.00
Children under 12	\$12.00
Saturday night Dinner Theater (Adults including bus)	\$70.00 -
Children under 12 including bus	\$40.00
Sunday Banquet & Happy Hour (Adults)	\$65.00
Children under 12 (including soft drinks)	\$30.00

These prices include all gratuities. In addition to the above, there is a shared cost that will be charged to each adult to help pay for the miscellaneous things that go to making the reunion successful. This would include such things as microphones and PA system use; copy machine use; extra costs for meeting and other rooms; set-up and take down for various events; extra charges for bartenders, etc. This cost will be \$38.00 per adult in

(continued on page 20)

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.

Note: Please make checks payable to:
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Send to: William G. Robey, Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Martin Gross in memory of Dan Quinn
Albert J. Baccile in memory of close buddy 1st Sgt. Joseph Gravino
Alice Doty Sustaining Member Donation
Teresa M. Jamison in memory of Cpl. George E. Jamison

Jack F. Jewell in memory of Jack Dunlap, B Co., 39th Inf.
Peter T. Magnanelli in memory of all fallen comrades of A Co., 15th Engrs.
Chester Mikus in memory of Ayn Mikus and Rose Bonkowski
Irene F. Murray in memory of Lawrence J. Murray

Jack Eddy Sustaining Member Donation
Ethel Smith in honor & memory of my husband John J. Smith
Herbert Stern in memory of Dr. George Nicklin and Dan Quinn
Dale E. Smith in memory of Cpl. Richard Kahn, 2nd Med. Bn, 39th Inf.

James C Popeski in memory of my wife Rose Marie Popeski
Jack R. Blann in memory of Charles McLhinney, brother of Walter McLhinney KIA, E Co., 47th Inf. at Oberkirchen; Dan Quinn; Hamp Ward, E Co., 47th Inf.

Charles LiBretto Sustaining Member Donation
Joanne M. Riha in memory of Lawrence Langer, son of President Emil Langer
Erik and Kaye Olson in memory of James (Jay) Overton
Robert A. Watts in memory of Eugene Reedy

H.E. Mansfield in memory of all Ninth Infantry members who have left us
John H. Losnes in memory of Pauline Olsen wife of Herb Olsen and Trevor E. Jones
William H. Nelson in memory of Burleigh Brewer, Bill Doty, George Booth, Ralph Darling, Emery Dove, and Captain Weaver (the last three are buried over there)

Beatrice C. Johnson in memory of my husband James A. Johnson
Kate Nicklin in memory of Dr. George Nicklin, Dan Quinn and Chester Jordan
Edward Rickert in memory of Edward Crnkovich, Co. A, 15th Engr. Bn
William J. Rybka in memory of Walter Ricker and in honor of his "ladies," Margaret, Linda, Mary Ann, and our 9th Division Chaplain, Rev. Jeannie Ricker Higgins

Susan O'Konski in memory of Victor Larson
Robert A. Pappas Sustaining Member Donation
Lois L. Brewer in memory of her husband Burleigh Brewer, George W. Booth, and William Doty

Paul Schumacher in memory of Walter Ricker
Frank Meanor in memory of William A. Mills, A Btry., 34th F.A. Bn
Patrick Piccirilli in memory of my father Samuel D. Piccirilli

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.

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; Frenzerberg 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

Frank Alice Co. A, 15th Engr. Bn	Edward Crnkovich Co. A, 15th Engr. Bn	Joseph Gravino	Trevor E. Jones
John Kowalski 709th Ord. Co.	Robert McCulley	William A. Mills Btry A, 34th F.A. Bn	James W. "Jay" Overton Co. I, 39th Inf. Regt
Walter E. Ricker Hq Btry., 84th F.A. Bn	Frank M. Ridzi Btry B, 60th F.A. Bn		

TAPS LETTERS

Frank Alice Co. A, 15th Engr. Bn

It is with great sadness that I write this letter to inform you of the death of my father, Frank Alice, on November 20, 2007. He was 90 years old. He always spoke fondly of the friends that he made in the 9th Infantry (sic) and the various Reunion and Fr. Connor Memorial Mass trips he took as a member, especially in the 1960's and 1970's.

Sincerely,
Frank Alice Jr.
Philadelphia, PA

Edward Crnkovich Co. A, 15th Engr. Bn

Edward Crnkovich was born Sept. 29, 1910 in St. David, IL, passed away July 2, 2007 in Palm Coast, FL.

He was coal miner working in strip mines in the Canton area for 43 years.

Edward was in the Ninth Infantry Division, Company A, 15th Combat Engineer Battalion, 3rd Platoon, 2nd Squad. He was in the 9th Div. from 1942 to 1945.

He served in campaigns in Algiers, French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, then to England, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, and the Rhineland. He was wounded in Belgium in 1945.

He left the 9th Div. in Aug. 1945 to be discharged to B Company, 125th Armored Engineers (14th Armored Div.) arriving in New York Harbor, then to Camp Shanks and to Ft. Sheridan, IL to be discharged.

He will be missed by his wife Lence and his son and daughter and many friends. Edward was an excellent soldier.

Edward Rickert
Oak Forest, IL

Joseph Gravino

Joseph Gravino recently passed away at the Canandaigua NY Vets Hospital. Joe lived in Macedon, NY and we had a very close relationship over these many years. Our ranks may grow thinner but the accomplishments of the 9th will live on.

God bless all our former comrades who have passed on
Al Baccile
Horseheads, NY

William A. Mills Btry A, 34th F.A. Bn

William A. Mills passed away in the presence of his loving family at home in Arlington, MA on September 22, 2007. He was born in Arlington on November 29, 1919. He was a proud firefighter for 34 years.

He enlisted February 18, 1941 and trained at Fort Bragg. He was proud of his service record and the men he served with from North Africa, Italy, England, Normandy invasion, Battle of the Bulge to the Elbe River. He was discharged September 5, 1945.

He displayed the Octofoil with pride and had a library of 9th Division literature and books. Each year he faithfully attended the 9th Division, 34th F.A. Bn reunions at Father Connors Church in Worcester, MA visiting with many friends from all over the U.S.

Yes, we lost another "hero" and our dad and grampy.

Norma Mills
Wife of 61 years
Coca Beach, FL

Pauline Olsen

My mom passed on this week (February 12, 2008). She was the wife of Herbert E. Olsen, a member of the 9th. I know through the years she was active with the group.

Karen Olsen Colella

Emma Killen

Emma Killen passed away on February 3, 2008. Sadie and I lost a good friend that day, we will miss her.

Our sympathy goes out to Joe and his children
Sadie and Joe Maiale

TAPS LETTERS

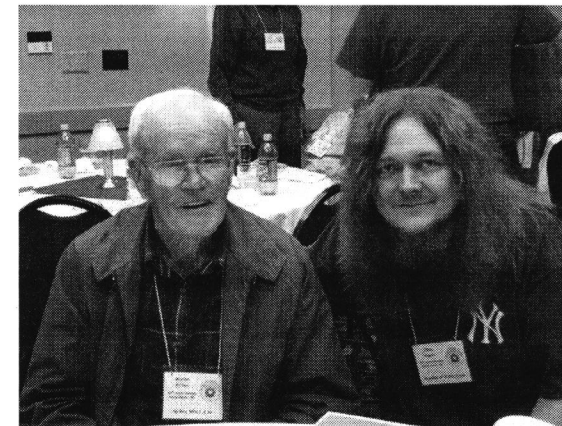
Walter E. Ricker Hq Btry., 84th F.A. Bn

Chris Higgins here, (Jeannie's son). I just read *The Octofoil* and saw Taps for my Papaw (Walter E. Ricker). The world has truly lost a light. You know most times you hear people say, well he or she is in heaven (and one would hope they are), but sometimes you wonder or don't know, but always hope they are for sure. With my Papaw, I KNOW HE IS. There is comfort in that for and our family is comforted by knowing he is with God and we all hope to be with him again some day. My Mom, Papaw and Mamaw have always been the best examples of what it means to be a follower of Christ to me and others, I'm sure. We miss Papaw dearly and love/loved him so, so much. He was a great man indeed. His funeral service was beautiful and incredibly moving. It was of course a military service. The folding of the flag, the playing of taps and the firing of arms. WOW!!

I appreciate what this association is/does and it was a pleasure meeting everyone in Grand Rapids last year. It was an honor to be there with so many hero's and truly amazing people.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Chris



Papaw Walter E. Ricker and Chris Higgins

Frank M. Ridzi Btry. B, 60th F.A. Bn

My father, Frank Ridzi, was admitted to the hospital on Christmas Eve 2007 and died under Hospice care on New Year's Eve 2007. He had been married to my mother, Margie, for 59 years.

After raising his family in Brooklyn, New York, Dad retired at a young age and moved to Catskill, New York with Mom. They lived on forty acres, surrounded by trees, flowers and animals he so loved from his childhood in Slovakia.

Dad was extremely proud of his service to his country during World War II. His memories ran deep and strong. As children, Dad would tell my twin brother, my sister and I stories about his soldier friends and the people they met in various countries. It wasn't till we were much older that we came to realize the horrors he had experienced.

In 2004, I was honored to interview Dad for the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress in Washington DC. His step-by-step memories of each battle were amazing. After all the years that had passed, Dad could still give a detailed accounting of the battles he had fought.

Dad loved The Ninth Infantry Division and proudly displayed the decals, pins and mugs that proved membership. He would often pass on his copy of *The Octofoil*. This was especially important to me, since I was able to attend college through the generosity of The Ninth Infantry Division scholarships.

I feel a deep sadness every time I hear of the passing of another World War II veteran. Unfortunately, this time, my father joins their ranks.

Frank Ridzi was a strong, loving, caring and gentle man. His family and friends miss him so much-but he left a legacy of honor and devotion that we will always remember.

Barbara Ridzi Yovine
Delmar, New York

TAPS OBITUARIES



Trevor E. Jones 1923-2008

Trevor E. Jones, age 84, of Trumbull, died Monday, February 25, 2008 at Connecticut Hospice. He was born March 9, 1923 in Scranton, Pa., to Sidney and Grace Wooley Jones, and was a local resident for about 60 years. He retired from the Town of Trumbull Engineering Department where he served as a Registered Sanitarian. During World War II he served with the famed 9th Infantry Division in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Belgium, Battle of the Ardennes, the Hurtgen Forest, Rhineland, Central Europe, the Remagen Bridgehead and the Army of Occupation in Germany. Among his other citations, he was awarded 8 Bronze Campaign Stars. He was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 145, and a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans, Post 25. He was also a member of the American Legion, Post 177, and the Germania Schwaben Society. He is survived by his wife, Maybert Howarth Jones; two daughters, Pamela McClean of Shelton, and Susan Jones of Bridgeport; two grandchildren, one great-grandson, and several nieces and nephews.



James W. "Jay" Overton 1917-2007 Company I, 39th Infantry Regiment Command Sgt. Major U.S. Army, Retired

Age 90, passed away December 31, 2007. Jay was born on October 2, 1917. He was inducted into the U.S. Army in December 1943. He received the Purple Heart and the Silver Star Medal in April 1945 for gallantry in action near Winterberg, Germany serving with the 9th Division. He was a Lansing business owner for 30 years. He was a member of Capital Lodge of S.O. #66 F. & A.M., Capital Chapter #9 R.A.M., a Past Commander of Lansing Commandery #25 K.T., member of DeWitt Clinton Consistory, Elf Khurafeh Shrine Temple, Central Michigan Scottish Rite Club, and the Capital Caravan Club. Surviving are his wife, Wylodean, whom he was married to for 69 years; daughter, Jadeanne Jenks; son, James D. Overton; 9 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

TAPS OBITUARIES



Walter Eugene Ricker 1918-2007

Hq Battery, 84th Field Artillery Battalion

Walter Eugene Ricker, 89, of CM Jones Road, Greenville, died Sunday (December 16, 2007) at his home. Mr. Ricker's family provided the following statement: "Before going into the military, he was employed at Tennessee Eastman in Kingsport. A World War II veteran, he proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1942-45 as a member of the 9th Infantry Division, 84th Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery. He was in the Normandy Invasion and served in the European, African and Middle Eastern Occupation, receiving two Bronze Stars. He also served in the Germany Army of Occupation. In addition, he received the World War II Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He enjoyed attending the annual reunions held across the nation of his 'Old Reliable' buddies from the 9th Infantry Division. He enjoyed visiting the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., on a couple of occasions. On his first visit just prior to its official opening, he was given a personal tour and was able to sign the guest registry of the Memorial.

He was a lifetime farmer and was employed at Parker Hannifin (formerly TRW Ross Gear) and Delfasco. He leaves a great legacy of love for farming and caring for the earth—a gift he passed on to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was a faithful member of Mount Hebron United Methodist Church, the Men's Bible Club, the Ladies Bible Class, and the Mount Hebron Men of Faith. He was a great man of faith with a firm belief and commitment to serving God and his fellow man. His family has been blessed with the example of an amazing man of God, a loving and deeply compassionate husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.



Burleigh Brewer 1921-2007

Co. K, 39th Infantry Regiment

Burleigh Brewer, 86, of Beaver Creek, Ohio, died peacefully on October 17, 2007 after an extended battle with lung cancer. He is survived by his loving wife Lois.

Born in Hazard, Kentucky, Burleigh left home at age 14 to attend secondary school and college at Berea College. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in August, 1940 at the age of 19, and served until 1945, attaining the rank of Technical Sergeant. He served as a proud member of the Ninth Infantry Division, 39th Infantry Regiment, Cannon Company K, and as a paratrooper attached to the 82nd Airborne Division during the invasions of Sicily and Utah Beach. Sgt. Brewer saw action in the Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes-Alsace, and Rhineland Campaigns, before being critically wounded at Remagen in March, 1945. Sgt. Brewer sustained seven battle injuries, and was decorated with the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with three oak leaf clusters, and various campaign awards.

Mr. Brewer's war remembrances have been chronicled in the *Hazard Herald*, and have been recorded for the Veterans History Project for the U.S. Library of Congress. Mr. Brewer was a member of American Legion Post 763 and served as Commander of VFW Post 8312 in Beaver Creek, and was inducted into the Military Order of the Cootie, the honor legion of the VFW. His many hours of volunteer service helped ensure the development and installation of the Beaver Creek Veterans Memorial. He was a Life Member of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

TAPS TRIBUTES

James W. "Jay" Overton Company I, 39th Infantry Regiment



James W. "Jay" Overton, Ninth Infantry Division, passed away December 31, 2007 following a courageous battle with cancer and heart disease. He was 90 years old. Born on October 2, 1917 in Greenfield, Tennessee he entered into the U.S. Army on December 31, 1943 at the Induction Center at Fort Sheridan, Chicago, Illinois. Following basic training at Camp Calhoun, San Diego, California, Jay received advanced infantry training at Camp Howze, Gainesville, Texas. He was assigned to Company I, 39th Infantry Regiment of the Ninth Infantry Division. From Texas, he was shipped directly to Belgium, although he served principally in Germany. During his WW II years, Jay was rapidly promoted. On April 1, 1945 in Winterberg, Germany, he was injured in the left leg, thus receiving his Purple Heart. A few days after his injury, also in the Winterberg area, he led his soldiers across a large open field.

After arriving on the other side, Jay noticed that one of his men was down. He charged back alone across the open field while bullets peppered the area. Unable to carry his soldier due to his own injury, he carefully pulled him across the lengthy field to safety with the others. For this gallantry in Winterberg on April 4, 1945, Jay received the Silver Star Medal.

While the 39th Infantry Regiment was in Bad Godesberg, Germany, the U.S. Army Signal Corps photographed Jay amongst the surrendered Germans in front of the famous Rhein-Hotel Dreesen, Bad Godesberg. For the rest of his life, he would be most proud of this picture that was published in the *National Geographic*, July, 1945. Bad Godesberg was where Hitler and Chamberlain had met several years earlier.

On June 30, 1945, he was honorably discharged from his WW II service and immediately was transferred into the Army Reserves. He achieved the rank of Command Sergeant Major. Jay loved the Army and at one time contemplated making it his life career. Being a quiet man, he shared very little about his battles, injury, medals and actions after the war. Over his lifetime, he devoted a total of 27 years to serving his country.

(continued on page 19)



U.S. Army Signal Corps/National Geographic

Jay Overton

CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Because the 2008 Florida Chapter Reunion will be held at the same time and place as the National Reunion, you will not receive the customary Florida Chapter Order Form and Information Sheet this year. Instead use the form that is printed in *The Octofoil*. If you do not wish to cut up your



Emil J. De Donato

Octofoil, make a copy and send it to Bill Robey, Reunion Chairman, 1005 Elkhart St., Oxon Hill, MD 20745-2118 together with your reservations, etc. Please do not send your reservation to me or to the hotel.

The Florida Chapter will have a Hospitality Room where it will hold their Men's Business and Women's Auxiliary meetings. If permission is granted by the hotel management, there will be a sign in the lobby listing the name or number of the Florida Chapter's Hospitality Room. Please see the bulletin board in the Hospitality Room for the time and date of the meetings and other functions.

We urge all Florida Chapter members to attend the 63rd Annual Ninth Infantry Division Association Reunion. Those of you who live in the Orlando area and do not wish to make a reservation but would like to attend the different activities, please contact Bill Robey at [redacted] or [redacted].

Do you want your e-mail address listed on the roster? Then send it to me at: [redacted]

Emil and Audery celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on February 4, 2008 with members of their family and friends.

Marty and Rosalyn Gross went on another 10 day cruise, this time to the Caribbean Islands. They also hosted Rosalyn's daughter with her two children from Israel from December 15th to January 1st.

Florida Chapter News is written by Emil J. De Donato. Please send news to him at [redacted]

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

Chapter Closed



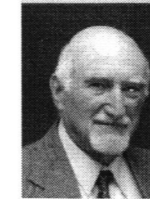
Mike Belmonte

Enclosed is a check payable to The Ninth Infantry Division Association. This is money that was in our treasury. We closed the account with the Chorus Bank after Gordon Anderson moved to Tennessee and Bill Hennumuth passed away as those two names were on the account. The Illinois Chapter has been quite inactive the past two years and we figured the Association could use the money. We have no expenses to warrant keeping the money here.

Hope things are going well and wish you a very Happy New Year.

Ann Belmonte, Secretary for Mike Belmonte

GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER



Marv Levy

The last NY Chapter report in *The Octofoil* covered our 2007 Holiday Party. Since we do not meet during the winter months of January and February there is no report for that period. Our next scheduled meeting is March 21, but too late to report for *The Octofoil* March 20 deadline.

The chapter does have some sad news to report. Joe Killen's beloved wife Emma, passed away on February 3, 2008, after suffering a massive stroke. As reported earlier, Emma had suffered prior strokes and debilitating ailments for many months.

(continued next column)

The chapter offers its sincerest condolences to Joe and his family. We will miss Emma's radiance that shined in spite of her difficulties when she was able to join our get-togethers. Personal condolences should be sent to Joseph Killen, 224 N. Grove Street, Valley Stream, NY 11580

At the time of this writing some chapter members are away in Florida and others are home nursing various ills. We hope all will be well enough to attend our first meeting of 2008.

NY Chapter reminder—don't forget to pay up your dues for 2008: \$15 for one year, \$35 for 3 years, and \$75 for Life Membership. Make checks payable to: The NY Area Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assn., and mail to Treasurer Joseph Maiale, [redacted]

Marv Levy, Recording Secretary



Judy Goldsmith

LADIES CORNER

Your auxiliary officers have been busy making plans for our upcoming reunion in August. We try to plan our meetings to be informative as well as entertaining for those that attend.

At present we are able to inform you of the luncheon that will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel prior to our annual meeting. Price as well as quality being a factor, we consulted with the hotel sales office and the best they have to offer is \$24.00 per person. The luncheon will be soup, sandwich, beverage and dessert with gratuities included. Our treasurer, Jean Geary, must give the hotel an exact count no later than August 9th. Jean requests that you send her your check payable to the 9th Division Ladies Auxiliary. Her address is 1305 E. Livingston St., Allentown, PA 18109. **DO NOT** make your check payable to Jean, please.

Please bring your membership card with you so that it can be updated for 2008. A reminder; dues are now \$5.00 a year as voted upon at the last meeting. Some ladies became new members last year and we welcome all. However, don't you think that if your husband is a member of the 9th Division Association, you should join the Auxiliary? Our primary purpose is to offer help, in many ways to the Association. So, along with your check for the luncheon why not include an extra \$5.00 to cover your membership dues. The more members we have the more good we can do to help the Association and veterans in VA Hospitals. This is our primary purpose. We also enjoy the company of all the women from our extended families.

Don't forget to bring some gifts for our Pollyanna exchange. Start collecting items for our raffle table also. Our raffle is most important, please help.

More news to come in our next issue. Until then, stay well and send in your deposits for Orlando, your luncheon checks and especially your dues for the coming year.

Sincerely,
Judy Goldsmith, President

PS: Thought you might enjoy the following:

WHO THE HECK WAS KILROY?? KILROY WAS HERE! In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the REAL Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article.

Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but (continued on page 19)

MAIL CALL

George Hensel

Would like to hear from any survivors. I was in the 47th Regiment, 1st Bn Hqs, Wire Section, Communication Platoon.

Orville A. Stangl

To: The Officers of the Association and the Editors of *The Octofoil*:

I wish to congratulate you on the new format of *The Octofoil*. The old was great in its day, but the new is a great improvement.

Never be afraid of change because there are always better ways of doing things. If we hadn't been able to change in combat, our casualty rate would have been even higher.

Just keep up the good work, my hat is off to you all. There will always be some who will bitch. I guess that is normal in our society.

I congratulate the younger generations who have stepped forward to help keep the memories alive of those who served in the 9th in the Vietnam War. Their war was hell on Earth too. Theirs was a thankless task that was not given the honor it deserved.

I also served in combat in the Korean War, Co. M, 32nd Inf., 7th Div. (a forgotten war). So have an idea of what the Vietnam Vets went through.

Thanks again for your dedication.

Sincerely, Orville A. Stangl

Robert E. Pappas

Just finished reading *The Octofoil* and I see where the Editor wants to know where the original map of the 9th Inf. Div. Route of March is located.

I'm not sure if the one I had is it. I was given one when Gen. Randle passed on. I don't remember the last name but the nurse (Ann) gave me a couple mementos from the General. I'm not sure the date of the General's death but I went to the Army museum at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington and gave to them my copy only it was not on paper.

It was on a plastic of some sort that was about 24 in. by 12. Fort Lewis personnel was supposed to send me a photo of the presentation but I never got one. I was living in Florida at that time so it had to be around the early 1980's.

Being of age (83) my writing isn't too good.

Enclosed is a check to the Div. to use where it is most useful. I'm a lifetime member so all I ask is a 9th Div. cap. I lost mine somewhere.

Sincerely, Robert A. Pappas, A Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

(Dear Mr. Pappas, Thank you for the hint to check Ft. Lewis. Unfortunately the museum director said he has never seen the map.)

Joseph Maiale

I would like to hear from any one that was with I Company, 47th Inf. Regt. during February and March of 1945. Some of the people I did contact had passed on. I haven't been able to locate John Englert and George Schultz.

E-mail message

MAIL CALL

Monty McDaniel

You can see a picture of my uncle and read his Distinguished Service Cross citation by typing in Paul E. Alexander Legion on Google. You can see his 9th Division patch in the picture. My uncle served with Company G from October 11, 1942 until killed in action on June 14, 1944. There is a website called 60th Infantry.com. On the site there is a film showing the fort at Port Lyautey, North Africa. The film has a color scene of Karl (Molotov) Warner one of the most colorful characters of Company G. I do know that Karl Warner has been mentioned in several past issues of *The Octofoil*. If you type on Google The Happy Busboy Karl Molotov Warner you can read an article from Time about him.

Sincerely, Monty McDaniel E-mail message

**SSG Paul E. Alexander, U.S.A.**

Citation: Distinguished Service Cross

Staff Sergeant Paul E. Alexander, 60th Infantry, USA, for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on 14 June 1944, in France. When his company had been held up over and over by extremely heavy machine gun fire from

an enemy strongpoint, Staff Sergeant Alexander led his squad forward to attack the enemy position. As he moved ahead of his men across the fire-swept terrain, Staff Sergeant Alexander was seriously wounded but nevertheless continued to lead his squad and direct their attack. He personally threw hand grenades into four enemy machine gun positions completely silencing the guns and inflicting numerous casualties on the enemy. Staff Sergeant Alexander lost his life as a result of this action, but the extraordinary heroism and undaunted courage he displayed were an inspiring example to his men, in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

Sergeant Alexander was enrolled in the Legion of Valor in 2003 by his nephew, Monty McDaniel from Bloomington, Indiana.

Ethel Thompson**N. Huntingdon, PA 15642**

I am sending this letter to request that you no longer keep Bill Palady on your mailing list. He is my brother, age 92 and is unable to read due to macular degeneration of his eyes. He still manages to take care of himself the best he can but life is difficult. Bill talks about his time in the service and still hears from a couple of his buddies around the holiday time.

Thank you for taking care of this request and God bless you all

Sincerely, Ethel Thompson

Paul W.J. Schumacher

No question about it. Sometimes, in the routines of my days in retirement, my attitude and physical effort need some adjustment. Bands. Big Marching Bands. Bands made up of energetic young people playing my favorite music can do that very effectively.

On New Year's Day I tuned in the Rose Parade 2008 and struck gold in heartland USA when it comes to my kind of music. Who can resist the allure of the "Pride of the Illini Band," or the "USC Marching Band," or, "Marine Corps Band," or, the "Pride of the Dakotas Band," or, the colorful band from Hawaii; or, the "Salvation Army Tournament of Roses Band." These are just a few of the enormously impressive presentations that were on view

(continued on page 9)

MAIL CALL

(Paul Schumacher...continued from page 8)
at the Tournament of Roses Parade.

While watching the performance of the bands and the color guards and listening to the stirring and uplifting music, I was reflecting on my days at Fort McClellan, Alabama. On many Saturday mornings it was time to dress-up and parade on a blistering hot summer day. Even in my twilight years, it makes my chest swell with pride to have participated in those events some 65 years ago.

Truth-be-told, I also watched 30 minutes of the New Year's Eve program (23:45H to 00:15H) on 31 December 2007. Perhaps I am dead in spirit, but hip-hop music—or however one characterizes what was being presented—did not do much for me.

Give me soul—stirring music by a Big Marching Band that jolts the spirit and causes the toes to tap out a cadence and brings shortness to the breath and tears to the eyes and turns a heart-of-stone into shimmering Jell-O. WOW!

What a way to begin the New Year 2008

Wyett H. Colcasure**28 Dogwood Ln.****Salem, IL 62881**

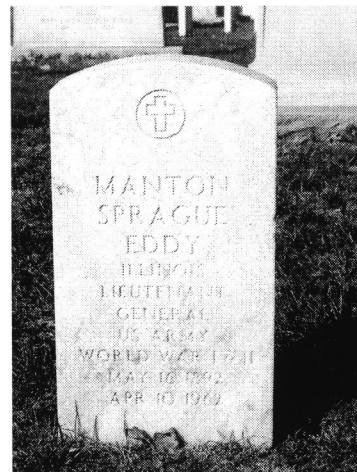
Greetings to all who wore the Octofoil. Last November had the occasion to visit my son in Maryland. He also wore the Octofoil in Vietnam. At 95 it is nice to have someone to drive for you. We drove down to Arlington to visit the grave of General Eddy.

For those interested, pictures are included.

My war ended April 8, 1943, last of McKnasey, Tunisia, North Africa.

Good luck and God bless.

Wyett H. Colcasure, Capt. Ret., Co. H, 60th Inf.



Inscription reads:

MANTON
SPRAGUE
EDDY
ILLINOIS
LIEUTENANT
GENERAL
U S ARMY
WORLD WAR I & II
MAY 16 1892
APR 10 1962



Inscription reads:

3 2502-1 RH
DSC—DSM & OLC
SS—LM & OLC
BSM & OLC—AM
CR—PH
MAMIE B
HIS WIFE
OCT 22 1895
MAR 23 1982

MAIL CALL

Robert A. Watts**4601 Walmsley Blvd.****Richmond, VA 23234**

Sorry for being late for a request for the maps you mentioned in *The Octofoil*. I would like (2) of the Ninth Div. Route of March.

I was radio operator for Lt. Floyd Moxey in Cannon Co., 47th Inf. Regt. Our OP was hit in France and Lt. Moxey was (killed) and Platoon Sgt. got a battlefield promotion. He was one of the best.

I was in the 9th's 34th F.A. till just before the invasion and transferred to the 47th Regt. at Winchester.

You asked about Sgt. Eugene Reedy (not Ready) St. Clair Shores, Mich. He was a fine soldier and good friend, we wrote each other and called by telephone from time to time, exchanged Christmas cards, etc. I have not heard from him but understood he had been ill and transferred to a nursing home. I believe his son sent me a copy (I can't find) of death services at church. Some one from the Michigan Chapter could verify this.

Enclosed is my check for the maps and the rest to a Tip of the Hat for Eugene Reedy.

How can I get a copy of Gen. Maness book "From Quarterback to Brigadier General?" He was 2nd Bn commander during my assignment of the OP.

God Bless, Robert A. Watts

(Please write to: Lewis E. Maness, 14984 Roan Rd., Wellington, FL 33414)

LTC John W. Miller, Ret.**1511 Cochise Dr.****Arlington, TX 76012**

Enclosed is a letter I received from Harry Pegg in 1988. Harry was drafted in the Army in January 1941 and assigned to Co. F, 60th Inf. Regt. He was assigned to the Weapons and the letter is about his memories of Co. F, 2nd Bn, 60th Infantry, someplace in France, summer of 1944.

I was 1st Sgt. of Co. F from November 12, 1942 until October 7, 1943 when I rotated back to the States on 1% rotation. You'll note he addressed the letter "Hi Whip"—my nickname as 1st Sgt.

Harry was an excellent soldier, one I will always remember.

John w. Miller, Co. F, 60th

Hi Whip

1988

Sorry I took so long to answer your last letter. It has been a very bad year for me. My time has been taken up with my wife only sister coming down with MS and my wife eye sight is starting to go. This growing old is for the birds.

Did not get to the reunion this year. Hope to make the next one. If I do make it don't think I will drive down as it is a long way for one driver. As I don't know of any other 9th Div. men that live near me. Of course I could come to Texas and pick up you and Jean. Do you remember when I almost met her in 1941. I could take the bus and leave the driving to them.

Just got your Christmas card and note. Makes one think of his Army day's at Bragg of all the good times we had and try and forget the bad times. Overseas we had so many of them. You know we lost the whole Weapons Platoon in one action. Mac was killed rest was wounded or killed when Mac got it really hurt. Even today I think about him.

I got the job of putting together a new Weapons Platoon. Had the pick of NCOs from the Rifle Platoon's and replacements fresh from the States. They didn't even know what a machine gun or mortar was. All this while we were still up on the line. 2 days of this we went on the attack. Hope you will excuse my crying. I had this inside me for 40 years. I know you will know what I am thinking about.

I belong to the VFW, DAV and NRA. We go out on the range almost every weekend and do some target shooting. We have a 357 Mag, 1911 Colt 45,

(continued on page 10)

MAIL CALL

MAIL CALL

MAIL CALL

(Miller...continued from page 9)

22 Cal. 6 Shooter, 22 Cal. Semi-Auto-Rifle, AR15, 303 British 308 Cal. Garand M1, and a 30 Cal. Carbine. As you can see most of our weapons are Army. We are looking now for a 30-06 M1 Grand. Also have 3 Shotguns, 1 Pump 12 GA and 2 Single Barrel 12 GA; 1 Muzzle Loader Double Barrel Shotgun and a 1881 Navy Colt Cal. 36 Black Powder. I never forgot how to clean our weapons, all I can say is we had a good teacher back then. Well John, guess I will close now with the best of everything to you and yours. Hope to see you soon.

Harry Peg

SEEKING INFORMATION

Gail Eisenhower

I would like to know if anyone has information concerning R.D. McArthur and the inscription he left on this tree in the Hürtgen Forest on September 21, 1944. Did he survive the war? Where in Texas was he from? Is he still alive and where does he live? Does anyone have contact information for him?

The tree is still standing and waiting for someone to tell the story of that day.

Here is part of the story to date:

The first American in Hürtgenwald left this carving on the McArthur Tree. He belonged to the 1st Bn, 39th Infantry Regiment. Their commander, Colonel Thompson and his people left Zweifall on September 19, 1944, with the order to reach Hürtgen and, if possible, Kleinhau. There he was supposed to secure a road connection to Düren, and at the time connect with the 47th Infantry Regiment which had already advanced to Schevenhütte. Nobody before them had advanced in the direction of the present district of Hürtgenwald.

McArthur Tree (Höhenschneise, Crossing Pilgerweg)



Inscription reads:
R D McArthur
9/21/44
TEXAS
USA

Thank you for any help you can provide concerning Mr. McArthur and this tree in the Hürtgen Forest.

Sincerely, Gail Eisenhower

Susie Williams
Carol Greenough

To All our Friends in the 9th Infantry,

Some of you may know that Tom Hatton (former President of the 9th Infantry Division) had heart valve replacement surgery on Monday, March 17, 2008. As of Tuesday he is doing marvelously! Surgery started at 9 a.m. and was completed by 11:30 a.m. We got to see him an hour later as he was already breathing over the ventilator. We went up to see him today and he is doing better than any of us (including himself) expected. The nurses had orders to move him out of CVICU and as of 4 p.m. he is in his room and sitting up.

We would just like to THANK all of you who have been sending cards and who have been praying for him (and us). Your concern is so comforting.

Sincerely, Susie Williams & Carol Greenough
(his daughters)

SEEKING INFORMATION

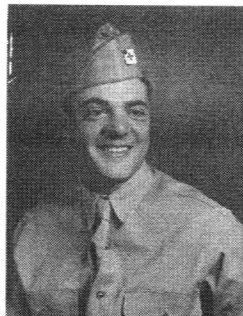
Matthew Rothbeind

My uncle, Murray Lippman enlisted in 1940 and received an honorable discharge 2 October 1941 as a Private, Company A, 16th Infantry. The honorable discharge states that he was discharged from Fort Devens, Massachusetts. He must have re-enlisted after Pearl Harbor and I know that he trained at Fort Bragg because I have a photo of Cannon Company with him in it. He was also in Company A, 47th Infantry Regiment.

I have a copy of his obituary from the local paper which states that he received his training in the medical corps at Fort Meade, Maryland and went overseas in April 1942 seeing action in North Africa, Tunisia, Sicily, England and France. He was killed in action 25 June 1944 in Cherbourg and was awarded the Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart. At the time his was killed he was in the 2nd Medical Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment. He was buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery St. Mere Eglise #2 and then repatriated home after the war.

If anyone remembers my uncle or has any information about him I would greatly appreciate hearing from you. Thank you.

Sincerely, Matthew Rothbeind



Pvt. Murray Lippman

Submission of copy for the
next issue must be received by
June 20, 2008

MAIL CALL

MAIL CALL

MAIL CALL

Bonifacio Campos

I want to find out how I can go about getting some of the books that came out in *The Octofoil*, *The Literary Ninth*.

6.) Robert H. Cardinell, *Adventures By The Men Of The 60th Infantry Regiment in WW II*.

7.) Robert H. Cardinell, *The 9th Infantry Division In WW II As Told By The Men, Vol. II*. This book has names from my old outfit.

(Please write to: Robert Cardinell, 5223 Palm Lane, Mt. Dora, FL 32757)

Derald W. Bogenrief

I never received a membership card.

Where could I get a copy of our Division's history titled

Eight Stars To Victory?

Thanks

(*Eight Stars To Victory* is available from Battery Press, P.O. Box 198885, Nashville, TN 37219; Tel: 615-298-1401; E-mail: batterybks@aol.com; \$69.95 plus S&H)

SEEKING INFORMATION

Company K, 60th Infantry Regiment
After Cherbourg, July 1944

Please contact the Editor if you can identify any of these men. Also, any idea on the exact date and location of the photo?



- 6. Nick Brinculli
- 7. Eugene R. Kennington
- 13. T/Sgt. John C. Eisenhower, Platoon Sergeant

Photo from Gail Eisenhower daughter of T/Sgt. John C. Eisenhower and William Kennington son of Eugene R. Kennington

A WARNING FROM THE WOODS

BY MARK J. REARDON

Second of a 3-part series

continued from Jul.-Aug.-Sept., 2007 issue

Schmidt ordered Colonel Feind to block off the threat of a further enemy penetration in that sector. In response, U.S. Engineer Battalions 16 and 275 occupied positions between Reichelskaul and Raffelsbrand while three companies of Engineer Battalion 73 dug in along the Hürtgen-Germeter road.

During the night of October 7-8, Colonel Schmitz sent reinforcements to the aid of GR 253. Fortress Infantry Battalion 1412 and *Luftwaffe* Fortress Battalion 5 were also dispatched by LXXIV Army Corps to reinforce the 275th. In addition Schmidt received two companies of civilian police from Düren, hurriedly issued with army uniforms and rifles. He combined the police into and ad hoc formation named Battalion Hennecke (after its commander). Several howitzer batteries from the 89th Infantry Division, an anti-aircraft artillery regiment and elements of an artillery corps were ordered to occupy positions where they could augment the fire of Major Sturm's Artillery Regiment 275.

With fresh troops and additional artillery, Feind planned to launch a coordinated counterthrust at dawn, using I/GR 983 and Engineer Battalion 275. His intended target was Colonel Chatfield's 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry, now located just west of Reichelskaul. Advancing northwest from Simonskaul, the German counterattack crumbled when it came under intense mortar, artillery and small-arms fire.

The 39th Infantry planned to renew its advance at 0800 hours, but a heavy barrage began falling on its lead battalion an hour before the attack was to begin. The 3rd Battalion suffered a serious setback when its L Company commander was killed and casualties disorganized his unit. Immediately following the barrage, a German force of 150 to 200 men counterattacked the 1st Battalion but was repelled by Captain Ralph Edgar's A Company. The Germans then shifted their efforts farther north, hitting L and I companies. Colonel Bond sent G Company from the 2nd Battalion, which quickly overran three enemy machine guns. The loss of the automatic weapons seemed to take the fight out of the Germans, who retired to the east. Thirty German soldiers were killed during the engagement, and 27 others, including a wounded company commander, were captured.

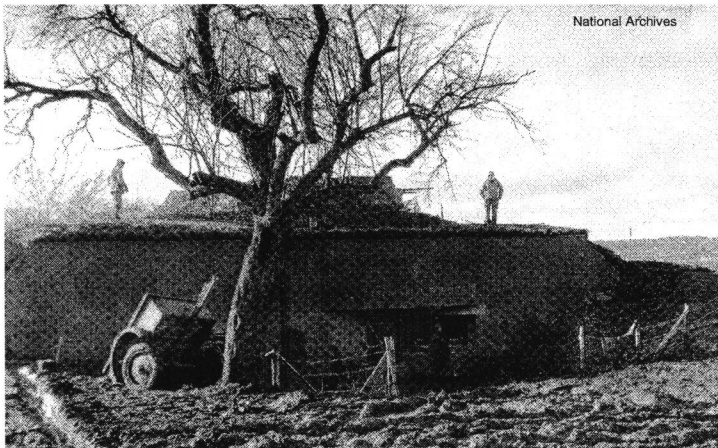
After thwarting the enemy counterattack, Bond ordered his lead elements to resume their advance at 1100 hours. Bolstered by the arrival of supporting tanks, L and I companies moved forward. By 1215 hours, L Company had gained 200 yards and captured three pillboxes. The 3rd Battalion's progress sowed and finally came to a halt shortly before 1800 hours. Still lacking supporting tanks, Thompson's 1st Battalion did not attempt to advance across the open ground surrounding Germeter.

The 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry, launched its own attack against the Reichelskaul road junction at 1100 hours and was met by intense artillery and mortar fire. B Company, accompanied by several tanks, was able to detour north into the 39th's zone of operations before veering back east again. This small force pushed to within sight of the crossroads before holding up for the night. The 2nd Battalion, however, was unsuccessful in overcoming the enemy to its front. Although the Germans has been pushed back, two days into the attack the Americans had yet to defeat the 275th, which continued to maintain an unbroken line of resistance. The bloodletting would continue.

During the night, Van Houten made plans to push eastward now that supporting tanks and tank destroyers had linked with his leading elements. Led by a platoon of M4 Shermans from the 746th Tank Battalion, Van Houten's 1st Battalion pushed out

into the open ground south of Germeter at daybreak.

The 39th joined the attack at 0700 hours, but without artillery preparation. This time, supporting tanks were available and actively engaged. The 1st Battalion made a short advance to the edge of the clearing surrounding Germeter before being brought to a halt. C Company suffered particularly heavy casualties when it attempted to breach a barbed wire entanglement. Only the tanks attached to B Company were in position to place effective fire on the enemy defenders. By 1900 hours, a platoon from C Company finally succeeded in working several men close enough to the outskirts of Germeter to begin exchanging hand grenades with the Germans. Unable to support them however, at nightfall Thompson ordered them to pull back.



Americans explore a Type-10 bunker outside Schmidt. More than 3,400 of these concrete strongholds were built along the 392-mile Siegfried Line. Each required 287 meters of concrete to construct and boasted walls that were 5 feet thick.

The 3rd Battalion moved out 45 minutes behind the 1st. As it advanced, the sound of tracked vehicles could be heard near Wittscheidt, and for the rest of the afternoon occasional high-velocity rounds exploded in treetops throughout the battalion's sector. Despite enemy sniper fire, I Company was able to occupy Wittscheidt by 1615 hours. With darkness approaching, Colonel Stumpf decided to halt his advance. To forestall the possibility of an armored counterattack from the direction of Hürtgen, he directed I Company to mine the road leading to Wittscheidt and to register artillery on all likely enemy routes of approach.

Any plan to resume the advance the next day was forestalled by a dawn counterattack by Battalion Hennecke that overwhelmed two platoons from I company, capturing 41 men. The German success meant that Bond would have to spend the rest of the day just trying to retake the ground he had lost. The 1st Battalion likewise did not attack as planned. Each time Thompson's men tried to move forward they received accurate small-arms fire as well as direct fire from German self-propelled guns.

Things went somewhat better for the 60th Infantry. The 1st Battalion pushed off at noon to seize the Raffelsbrand road junction south of Germeter. In what seemed to be a nightmarish repetition of the opening days of the attack, the thinned ranks of hungry and bone-weary GIs trudged forward while steadily losing men to incoming fire. The situation changed dramatically when one of the lead companies overcame a German pillbox covering the road between Reichelskaul and Raffelsbrand. Buoyed by success, the Americans pushed southward, collecting 100 prisoners

(continued on page 13)

(A Warning...continued from page 12)

and securing their objective by nightfall. With Raffelsbrand in American hands, Van Houten ordered the 3rd Battalion to redeploy to Reichelskaul to protect Chatfield's rear and maintain pressure on German units massing southeast of Germeter.

The loss of the road junction persuaded Schmidt that he needed additional troops. LXXIV Army Corps agreed to loan two rifle companies from the 89th Infantry Division, provided they were used only along the threatened southern flank. The reinforcements would not arrive until dawn on October 11, however, and in the meantime Schmidt sent a company each from GR 983 and GR 984 to strengthen Colonel Feind's GR 253.

The Americans' position was also somewhat precarious. With no reserves available, Van Houten had nothing to send to Chatfield's aid. To the east, the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, was still being held back by the stubborn defenders of II/GR 942. To the north, the 39th Infantry remained stalled outside Wittscheidt and Germeter.

October 11 brought success and failure for both sides. American attempts to exploit success at Raffelsbrand produced nothing but longer casualty lists. A German counterattack struck Chatfield's men before daylight, and though beaten back, Chatfield reported that "the enemy maintained pressure here for the rest of the day and crowned it before dark with a bayonet charge." When the Americans tried to bring up reinforcements, they were pinned down by several pillboxes along the Reichelskaul-Raffelsbrand road that they had bypassed the previous day.

The 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry, was finally able to enter Germeter but found that its defenders has abandoned their positions during the night. Hoping to seize more ground, Thompson ordered Captain Edgar's A Company, supported by Lieutenant Robert Sherwood's 1st Platoon of C/746th Tank Battalion, to probe eastward toward Vossenack. The column had only covered 500 or so yards when a *Panzerschreck* knocked out the lead tank, and the remaining American armor and infantry withdrew. A subsequent advance by A Company under cover of smoke ended with the destruction of two more Shermans.

The Americans had some success to the north and west of Germeter. Leaving I Company behind to protect the northern

approaches to the town, K and L companies encountered little resistance as they moved eastward from Wittscheidt. By late afternoon, Stumpf's battalion had advanced nearly a mile and was preparing to attack Vossenack from a ridge northeast of the village. The 2nd Battalion was also able to advance.

Craig's men had at least been gradually moving forward, but ominous events had occurred during the night that would soon threaten what little progress they had made. Accompanied by the LXIV Corps commander, Lt. Gen. Erich Straube, Seventh Army commander Lt. Gen. Erich Brandenburger visited Schmidt's command post. After hearing a candid assessment of the situation, Brandenburger promised to Regiment Wegelein, a unit composed of well-trained and well-equipped troops to the front. Numbering 161 officer and 1,639 enlisted/officer cadets, the force was organized with three battalions of three companies each and a regimental heavy-weapons company. Its commander, Colonel Helmuth Wegelein, was an experienced leader.

Schmidt and Wegelein quickly agreed that a counterattack against the northern flank of the Americans had the best chance of producing favorable results. Wegelein would launch his assault from an assembly area near Hürtgen, advancing southwest until he isolated the American battalions near Germeter.

Following a brief but concentrated artillery preparation, Wegelein's men advanced from their positions just before dawn, moving purposefully along the wooded plateau paralleling the Germeter-Hürtgen road. A platoon of dismounted armor crewmen from 746th Tank Battalion, securing a roadblock along the left flank a 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry, was the first to encounter this new threat and was quickly scattered. By 0700 hours, Wegelein had succeeded in isolating several of Lt. Col. Gunn's rifle companies. As testament to the isolation caused by the densely wooded terrain, the 39th's 3rd Battalion was completely unaware that the nearby 1st Battalion was being cut to pieces.

Lacking reserves to blunt the enemy thrust, Colonel Bond requested help from General Craig, who directed elements of the divisional reconnaissance troop-augmented by a platoon of light tanks to assist the embattled 39th Infantry. As the situation grew more serious, Craig ordered the 47th Infantry at Schevenhütte to dispatch two rifle companies and a company of medium tanks from the 3rd Armored Division to reinforce Bond. Rushed to the point of greatest crises, these reinforcements were finally able to halt the German advance when it reached the road leading west out of Germeter.

The abortive counterattack cost the Germans nearly 500 casualties, with little to show in return. The failed operation, however, produced at least one positive result for the Germans: Surprised by the strength and intensity of their assault, Bond ordered Stumpf's battalion to abandon its plans to attack Vossenack in order to reduce the salient Wegelein had created.

Schmidt planned on renewing the counterattack on October 13, but orders from LXXIV Army Corps directed the immediate removal of all officer candidates from the combat zone, which cut in half what remained of Wegelein's unit and forced him to spend badly needed time reorganizing his remaining personnel. While he was doing so, the 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry, launched an attack of its own against Wegelein's troops. K Company led the effort, trailed by L Company. As the latter moved up on line, both of its leading platoons were ambushed and wiped out. K Company maneuvered to attack the enemy facing L Company while the 1st Battalion sent B and C companies into the fight. Another counterattack inflicted heavy losses on the right platoon of Dunlap's company, but the American advance continued.

TO BE CONTINUED

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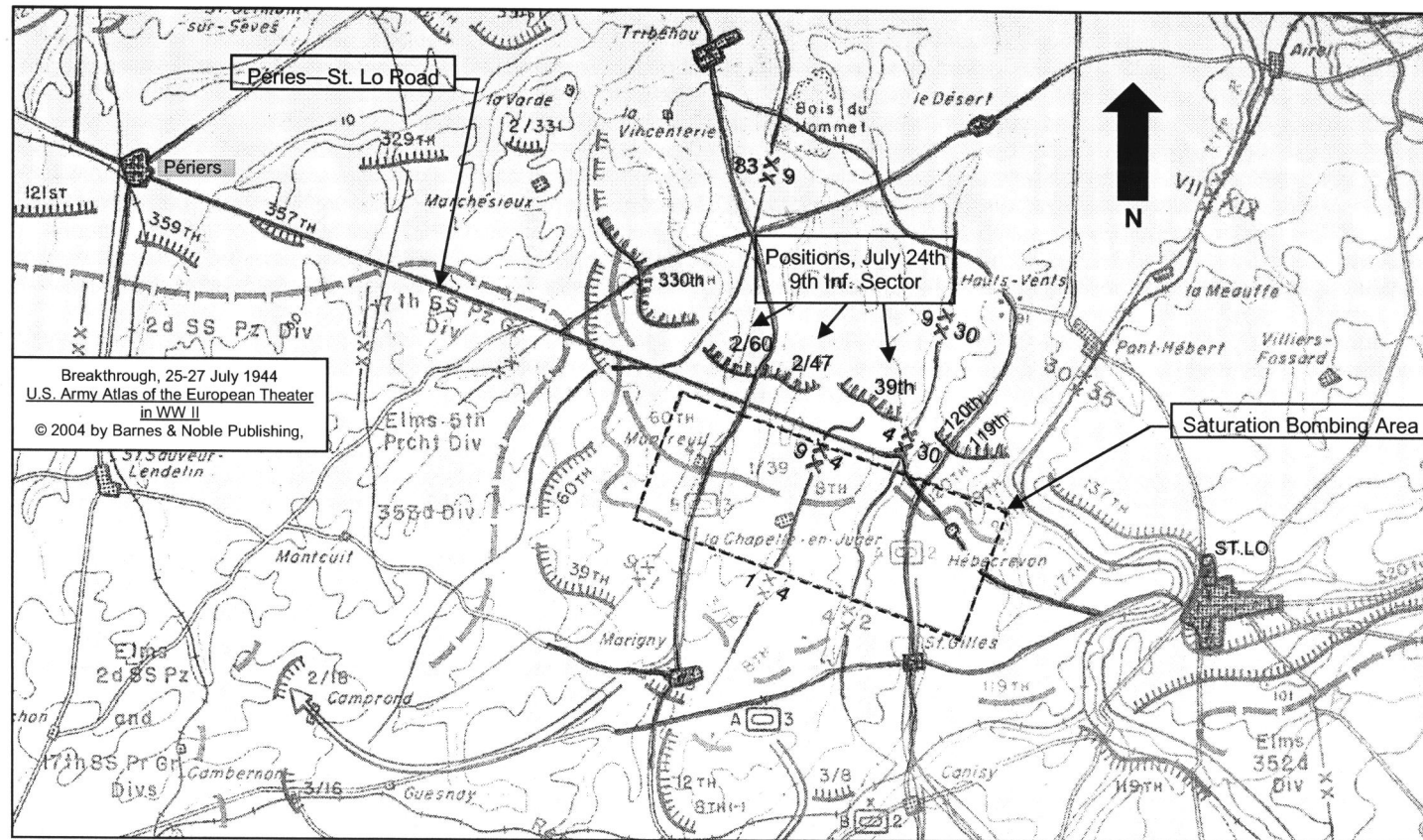
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A column of GIs ascends a hill and enters the forest. Many of the men sent into the woods as replacements were unprepared for what they would face. An Army historian later noted, "Any numerical advantage the Americans may have possessed lay in bug-eyed replacements, who began to arrive in small, frightened bunches."

HISTORY ROAD

Operation Cobra: Another First Hand Account



The article "Operation Cobra Revisited" by Dr. Martin Gross, published in the last issue, inspired another account of that tragic July 25, 1944.

2 ½ Ton Life Saver By Michael Habermann

I arrived in England in April 1944 and was taken to the pier to go to Normandy about three days after the June invasion. There was a big storm over the channel at the time. As a result, we were sent back to a temporary camp waiting for the storm to subside. I then landed on Utah Beach early the third week of June.

I went in as an Infantry replacement which is not the safest way to go into battle. We were taken to an assembly area and while there, my name was called three times. The third time the Sergeant asked if I could drive a two and half ton truck with a trailer on it. I said yes I could. I knew how because I had had my preliminary basic training in a Quartermaster company and had driven a two and half ton truck. There were several candidates for the same position. We had to drive down a narrow lane with a trailer in tow and back it up and around. When I returned the Sergeant said that I did it best. So I got the position. As far as I'm concerned it saved my life because the truck was then used between battalion headquarters and company headquarters and I did not have to go to into the line as an Infantry replacement.

I carried troops, arms and material in the trailer from battalion headquarters to individual companies and platoons. Artillery shells from the Germans would come in over us while American shells would be crossing above.

In any case, I drove up to Cherbourg; we went through terribly destroyed towns which affected me greatly. I got to Cherbourg just about the time the Germans surrendered. From there

(continued next column)



the 9th Division worked its way down the whole Cotentin Peninsula very, very slowly to the road between St. Lo and Périers. Each field surrounded by a hedgerow, was an independent battlefield and was very, very tough going. It took us from the third or fourth week in June all the way to the end of July to advance that short distance in the face of very fierce German resistance. As Marty says, "Operation Cobra to break out was then decided upon by the allied high command."

General Bradley decided to throw five thousand tons of bombs into a small area, only four miles deep and a mile and half wide. The 9th Division, of which the 39th Infantry was part, was on the right flank, the 4th Division was in the center, and the 30th was on the left flank. These were the spearhead divisions, to be followed afterwards by armored divisions of the Third Army once the bombing had been completed.

The morning of July 25th we pulled into a big field. In that portion of Normandy, the fields were larger and wider and the trees on the hedgerows taller. In fact, I remember looking down and seeing a wide sweep of hedgerow fields bigger than I had seen before. I parked my truck alongside a hedgerow. There were five or six fellows with me on the truck, and I placed us in a spot facing the German lines about 500 yards in front of the target zone. When we pulled into this particular field that morning none of the men I was with bothered to dig foxholes.

Soon the bombers began to come over. They started with B-25's and B-26's and other aircraft that dropped their bombs onto the German positions. The planes marking the drops were P-38 Lightning's. They had a two tail fuselage and we watched them as they dropped their flares.

When the big bombers, the B-17's came over at about 7,500-10,000 feet, they began to bomb the small target area in front of us. The bombing was so intense the earth shook and we

(continued on page 15)

★★★★ 14 ★★★★★

HISTORY ROAD

(2 ½ Ton Life Saver, continued from page 14)

bounced up and down. The sound was absolutely tremendous. The dust that came up from the bombing began to drift towards us. I said to the other fellows, "Something is going to happen". I looked up and saw the P-38's dropping their flares closer and closer to us.

At that moment, I turned around and saw hundreds of bombs, literally hundreds, coming up the field. Huge red flashes on the ground were racing right across the fields. Bradley originally had planned for the bombers to bomb parallel to the St. Lo-Périers road which was in front of us. Somehow the Air Force decided otherwise and the B-17's flew right in over us. As I looked around, I saw hundreds of bombs coming at me like giant foot-steps, all fire and flame. I took one step and said, "I'm dead. There is no way I'm going to live through this". I took another step or two and suddenly I was thrown violently to the ground. It was as though a horse had kicked me on the head, in the chest, and in the face. I lost my breath and was half buried in the ground.

When the closet bomb exploded it was twenty yards away at the very most. The shrapnel went over my head and slammed into the truck. One of my friends had his hands up and his hand was cut off by the shrapnel. I was smothered in dirt and dust and my whole uniform was burnt. I really didn't know where I was; I was completely dazed. I had suffered a concussion without even realizing it. I remember looking up and seeing one of the fellows nearby. His neck was red. In the moment of confusion I said to myself, "What a silly thing to do, to be wearing a red scarf in the middle of a bombing raid". Of course, he had been hit and I didn't realize that until much later.

I was extremely lucky because instead of turning and running toward the front of my truck I ran towards the back. I took one step as I said and then was knocked down. But later on, after I came to, I was pulled out and recovered. I walked towards the front of the truck and there was an unexploded bomb maybe ten feet in front of the truck. It had made a big hole. I believe the bombs were 250 pounds because if they had been 500 pounds they undoubtedly would have killed me.

Eventually the medics came and I was taken away. I do remember looking across the field and there was a great rush of soldiers. On that side, the trees were taller and the bombs hit in the trees and shrapnel came straight down and struck the men beneath the trees. I believe sixteen of our men were killed at that particular time. I really don't know exactly, but I heard it was between twelve and sixteen.

In any case, these men had been in the invasion in Africa, they had fought in Tunisia and in Sicily and then they had invaded Normandy at Utah Beach. And here, they were killed in this very unfortunate incident. I remember one young fellow running around the field not only dazed but practically crazy. He was shouting, "They were my best friends. We all went through Africa, we lived through Sicily and come here to be killed by our own bombers".

In any case, when the medics revived me and I began to look around, I saw that the truck was pretty much intact except for some holes on the sides. A Sergeant came up to me and said, "Move that truck". I replied, "I'm not going to move that truck! Not with that unexploded bomb maybe eight to ten feet away". He tried to order me. I said, "You can do it yourself, but I'm not going to do it," and I never did.

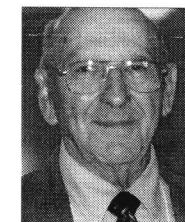
The Germans had been tremendously bombed in that target area but as the 39th was on the right flank, after the bombardment, German artillery began to fire at us again. That particular German area had not been bombed because it was just outside the target zone. One of the men said, "Gosh, we won't be able to make a breakthrough after all". But of course, we did. It took maybe a day or two to get things organized. We went down

(continued next column)

the whole southern Normandy coast of France beyond the town of Mortain. There were German bodies all over the place, German horses killed, German carts overturned and many bodies on the road. I ran over some of them since it was impossible to avoid them. Behind us Patton's Third Army then attacked and swept into Brittany.

When we got to the other side of Mortain the Germans counterattacked. They isolated the village of Mortain. The 30th Division was holed up there and surrounded but they fought their way out of it after a very famous siege. The Canadian and British armies then came down from Caen and Falaise to close the gap where the German armies had penetrated. The German army took a terrible beating. I remember the U.S. Air Force, the British Air Force and their Tomahawks and our P-47's flying over that area smashing everything in site. There I was severely shaken by a German shell that came very, very close to me. It was at that point I was taken back to a hospital near Cherbourg before being sent to a hospital in England.

Cheating Death By A Mere Four Inches By Paul Schumacher



I am attending this 63rd reunion and all past reunions as well because of the grace of God 63 years ago.

About a week after we crossed the Rhine River on the Bridge at Remagen, Germany, we were clearing out a small village somewhere near Lorscheid and the Weid River. At the height of its glory the village had perhaps 500 inhabitants.

Two of us infantrymen had gone through the 3 floors of what appeared to be a gasthof (restaurant, bar, cellar and an upper floor and garret for the resident-owners.)

No one was inside the building and we had heard no shots fired for at least 10 minutes. With my rifle at sling arms, I opened the exit door, closed the door behind me, took two short steps on the outside landing, made a sharp left turn when it happened. More crrraaacckkk than bang!

A German sniper had hit the left side of the upper hand-guard on my Garand rifle, directly opposite my right ear. That's about 4 inches from the back of my neck and the back of my head below the metal helmet. Fortunately for me, the metal helmet always tilted several degrees in a jaunty manner over my right ear, protecting the inner ear and eye from flying splinters.

I often recall the experience and reminisce about how profoundly fortunate I am to be here today.

★★★★ 15 ★★★★★

The Literary Ninth

Book Reviews

Hamel, André, 1939-1945 en Hague-Sud, (French, reviewed by Louis M. Prince, A Btry., 60th F.A. Bn). André Hamel of Les Pieux, France was born in Cherbourg (1927). The subtitle translates freely as "including the 9th Infantry Division's victorious path from Utah Beach to Goury, from Carentan to Mortain and on to the Elbe."

Mr. Hamel spent the war years near Les Pieux (not far from Cherbourg) where he lives now with his wife. (Address: 13, Rte de Cherbourg, 50340 Les Pieux, France). Mr. Hamel is an educator, having been Principal of a secondary school which he founded in Les Pieux, until he retired in 1982. He has also been a member of the municipal council of Les Pieux and President of the Tourist Bureau for 30 years. He has written 5 other books. Mr. Hamel survived the German occupation and at the age of 17 witnessed the liberation of the area by the 9th Division. In consequence he became a devoted follower and admirer of our Division and everyone serving in it. Included in the book are many photos of 9th Division soldiers from all 3 regiments and some of the supporting units.

The book contains several chapters about life during the Occupation in the southern part of the Cap de la Hague, but the main focus is on 9th Division operations. "It is one of our best divisions, but strangely...during the Mediterranean operations the 9th was never mentioned in official communications as it should have been when others were" Mr. Hamel is quoting Ernie Pyle (translated twice).

Besides personal experience Mr. Hamel's sources include the Regimental Histories of the 39th, 47th and 60th. The bibliography also contains books and articles by American, British, French and German authors. For anyone interested in 9th Division history or operations, the pictures alone make André Hamel's book valuable, whether or not one reads French

This book, originally written in 1994 was re-edited and published in 2005 by **Eurocibles**, 1 Centre du clos de l'Evêque BP 3, 50570 Marigny, France. E-mail: renegautiers@formail.fr. 252 pages, 14 chapters, paperback. The price at current exchange rates is \$35 to \$40.

Miller, John W. (F Co., 60th Inf.). Close Calls: An American Soldier's Journey in World War II. Upon reaching 21 years of age and bored with life on a farm in upstate New York Miller volunteered for the Army. He was sent to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and given basic training by F Company, 60th Infantry Regiment. Afterwards, while on kitchen police (KP) duty, he was asked if he had any cooking experience. Since he had helped out occasionally in a diner back home, he said "Yes", becoming a cook and was promoted to private first class (PFC).

After Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor, training became more complex and arduous. There were large scale, multi-division maneuvers in Louisiana and Alabama. Cooks learned to prepare meals on the road, and to load and unload their gear without lights. Because of his acquired skills and knowing how to handle men, Miller became mess sergeant. Finally, the division was undergoing amphibious training, learning how to load and unload transports, and dash ashore under fire.

In late October 1942, after boarding a ship at Norfolk, Virginia, and heading out to sea, the soldiers learned that the 60th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) would take part in Operation Torch, a British-American venture which would invade the French colonies of Morocco and Algeria on 8 November 1942. The 60th RCT would land close to Port Lyautey, Morocco, and protect the north flank of landings to the south around Casablanca.

(continued next column)

About half way to Africa, F Company's Captain Kritz told Miller to put someone else in charge of the kitchen, as he was to learn all he could about demolitions, particularly "Bangalore Torpedoes," which an improvised platoon of cooks would carry ashore in the first wave.

The battle for Port Lyautey was more prolonged than were the other Moroccan invasions at Safi or Casablanca. It was just getting light when acting platoon leader Miller and his men splashed ashore but found no barbed wire. They dropped their torpedoes and entered the fray at the *Kasba* with their rifles. Their performance pleased Captain Kritz and, after the smoke cleared, he announced that, because the first sergeant had been a casualty, the former mess sergeant and acting platoon leader would replace him.

By August 1943, Miller was given a choice by Major Kauffman, commander of the 60th's 2nd Battalion, he could be sworn in immediately as a battlefield promoted 2nd Lieutenant or, he could leave for the States in the next week in present grade for a month's furlough then be reassigned to another unit. At once, Miller opted for the latter choice.

Miller's battlefield promotion eventually caught up with him while he was assigned to the 106th Infantry Division. In October 1944 the 106th was sent to Europe. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and on December 19th the 106th was surrendered to the Germans.

Lt. Colonel Miller (Retired) lives in Arlington, Texas

Books For Sale-Direct From Authors

Miller, John W. (Co. F-60th Inf.) Close Calls: An American Soldier's Journey in World War II. \$16.00 paperback, \$20.00 hardback includes S&H. Order from: John W. Miller, 1611 Commerce Dr., Arlington, TX 76012

Phillips, Henry G. (Co. M-47th Inf.) Sedjenane: The Pay-Off Battle. \$15.00 paperback includes S&H. Order from: Henry G. Phillips, [redacted]

Scheffel, Charles (Co. A-39th Inf.) Crack! and Thump: With a Combat Infantry Officer in World War II. \$20.00 paperback includes S&H. Order from: Camroc Press LLC, P.O. [redacted] Also, DVD In our Words Charles Scheffel plus U.N. Comments produced by KLRN Studios. \$3.00 includes S&H. Order from: Charles Scheffel, [redacted]

Werkman, Rosemarie, Love, War & Remembrance. \$10.00 includes S&H. Order from: Rosemarie Werkman, [redacted]



HEAVY WEAPONS
by HENRY GERARD PHILLIPS



NEW BOOK-COMING SOON???

Heavy Weapons by Henry Gerard Phillips is a unit history of Company M, 47th Infantry Regiment with heavy emphasis on its leadership at all levels up to the Division. Price has not yet been determined and no date of publication as yet. Stay tuned. The photo of the mortar man is from the late David Gillespie, K Company, 47th Infantry; History of the 47th Infantry Regiment, 1st Edition published in Munich, Germany, 1946

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Make payments by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER payable to: 63rd Reunion 2008. Mail the below completed Room Reservation Form with the payment to: William G. Robey, Reunion Chairman
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Oxon Hill, MD 20745-2118

Deposits of \$150.00 per person must be made by May 15, 2008. Final payment **MUST BE MADE BY JULY 1, 2008**. Reservations made after July 1, 2008 will be subject to room availability. If final payment is not made by July 1, 2008, then deposit will be refunded. All reservations **MUST BE MADE** with this form. **DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT[LY]**. For more information, call Bill Robey, toll free at 1-866-229-2377, pin #3322.

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Octofoil Editor
William Sauers

(Overton...continued from page 6)

With great pride in the 9th Infantry Division, Jay and his beloved wife, Wylodean attended 30 of the 39th Regiment reunions all over the U.S. They traveled annually to different states, such as Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Arkansas and many others. In recent years, Jay and Wylodean attended several Christmas parties of the Michigan Chapter of The Ninth Infantry Division Association in Frankenmuth, Michigan. At the Military & Space Museum in Frankenmuth, Jay's donated uniforms and WW II memorabilia are periodically displayed.

In Lansing, Michigan, Jay was a business owner for 30 years. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Wylodean, daughter, Jadeanne Jenkins, son, James D. Overton and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

A proud, yet humble man, Jay loved his wife, family, Army service and his country. Ironically, he died on the 64th anniversary of the day he'd been inducted into the Army. About 140 people attended his Memorial Service on January 5, 2008 in Lansing, Michigan where he was put to rest with a 21 gun salute and Taps. As a courageous hero of the Ninth Infantry Division, he is deeply missed.

Kaye and Erik Olson, DeWitt, Michigan

(Kilroy...continued from page 7)

only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts had evidence of his identity.

Kilroy was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war. He worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet.

Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark.

Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then that he realized what had been going on. The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his checkmark on each job he inspected, but added KILROY WAS HERE in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with long nose peering

(continued on page 20)

(63rd Reunion Report...continued from page 3)
addition to the above individual event charges.

For those who are not staying at the hotel, contact Bill Robey and let me know which events you will attend. We need to make your reservations for these events in advance so that we can keep the hotel updated as to how many will be attending each event, especially the Saturday night dinner theater. This involves charter buses and the dinner and show, so we do need definite reservations for that event.

If you have any questions, please contact me and not the hotel. Remember, make your reservations early. It is easier to cancel a reservation than it is to make one at the last minute.

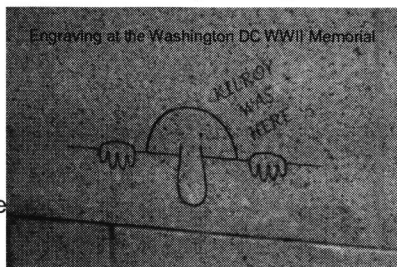
Bill Robey, General Chairman
63rd Reunion 2008

(Kilroy...continued from page 19)

over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message. Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks. Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them.

As a result, Kilroy's Inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the serviceman, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before the war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long haul to Berlin and Tokyo.

To the unfortunate troops outbound in those ships,
(continued next column)



Jason Coyne; <http://jasoncoyne.smugmug.com>

however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that some jerk named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, U.S. servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived.

Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GI's went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of the Arch De Triumphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon.)

And as the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for the coming invasions by U.S. troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo! In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. The first person inside was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?"...

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy front yard in Halifax, Massachusetts.

So now You Know!

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