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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

10-1-2008

The Octofoil, October/November/December 2008

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, October/November/December 2008" (2008). *The Octofoil*. 373.

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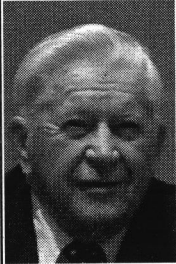
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The Octofoil

Oct.-Nov.-Dec.,
2008.

Volume LXIII, No. 4



President
Henry S. "Hank"
Geary

President's Message

This is the time of the year for joy and happiness and for the celebration of Christmas and the New Year. We hope you all are in good health and will enjoy the blessings of the holidays.

With the new year approaching, make it the time to start thinking about the reunion in Bangor, Maine. I have heard that things are moving along well. This I believe is the farthest north we have gone for any reunion. Get your reservations with a deposit sent in while it is fresh on your mind. We seniors do forget if we put things off (me included).

Hope to see more of you at this reunion, to bring together the few of us remaining of the "Old Reliables", and to remember those who are no longer with us. It is a great feeling to get together with your comrades and talk over old times and memories. So shuffle, crawl, whatever it takes, and join the rest of us at Bangor. See you there.

Have a happy and safe holiday.

Henry S. "Hank" Geary, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Association



www.octofoil.org

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Expired Membership?
Exp Jun 2008

Check the mailing label. If your label indicates that your subscription expired Jun 2008, this will be the last issue you will receive. Send your renewal dues to Bill Robey ASAP.

Attention!!!
North Africa Campaign Veterans

If you served in the North African Campaign please contact Bill Robey. He has an important question to ask and needs your assistance. Call him at: 1-866-229-2377 and enter pin #3322 at the prompt or e-mail at: billrobey@aol.com

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

There is not much new to report this time, but a couple of corrections in the last Octofoil need to be made. I mentioned in the last issue that one of our members who lived in Germany thought that we should add a Ninth Division Memorial Plaque to the Remagen Bridge. This statement was a little bit off. I should have said that one of our members who was visiting in Germany went to the Remagen Bridge and saw the other memorials and thought that we should have one also. We are still working on this. Our editor was in Germany some time ago and photographed the memorial plaques already in place and we are looking for someone to design one for us similar to those already in place. There is a process to go through, and we need to talk to the local government in the Remagen area and see what regulations we need to follow. We do have a member who lives in Germany, and when this process has progressed a little further, we will try to get him to check the Remagen regulations for us. More information when it becomes available.

The Association is in good shape, we have paid all the outstanding bills, and we still have money in the bank. The Association is solvent and fully operational.

As you know, we published the last issue of *The Octofoil* in color for the first time. This is an extra expense, and since we had quite a few generous members who donated money to offset the extra cost we were able to publish in color. If we expect to publish in color again, we will again
(continued on page 2)

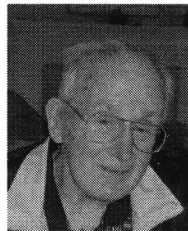
OUR MISSION

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.

THE NINETY'S CLUB

Here's your chance to join an exclusive, much loved, respected, and one of a kind club. Membership is free!!! All you need is a birthday celebrating your achievement of ninety (90) years. Send your name and recent photo to the editor.

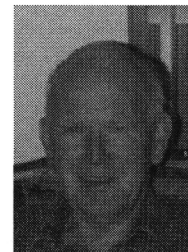
New Members



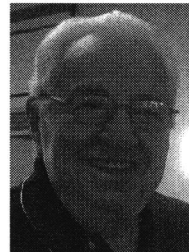
Roger E. Alsgaard (93)
Fort Wayne, Ind.



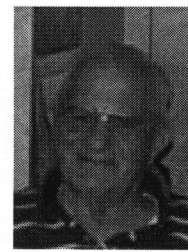
Gordon M. Binder, MD
(90)
Millbrae, Calif.



Joseph B. Kash (90)
Glenside, Pa.



Charles LiBretto (90)
Fairview, Tex.



Dominic J. Martello (92)
Metairie, La.



Alphonse J. Zenka (90)
Brooklyn, N.Y.

John Celler (90), Stamford, Conn. (New Member)**
Andrew Kopack (90), Nazareth, Pa. (New Member)**
James Leopold (90), Chicago, Ill.
Dr. Martin Gross (91), Coconut Creek, Fla.
Emil Langer (90), Hollywood, Fla.
Walter Victor (91), Dawsonville, Ga.
Jakie Grgurich (91), Novinger, Mo.
Anthony Cheney (90), Hunter, Kans.
William Nesta (90), Granada Hills, Calif.
Albert T. Farese (93), Bernardsville, N.J.
Don Amato (92), Burlington, Mass. **
Anton Dietrich (90), Richmond Hill, N.Y. **
Preston W. Stillings (94), Fairhope, Ala. **
Pat J. Zona (90), East Sandwich, Mass. **

** Missing your recent photo...please send to editor ASAP!

(Secty-Treas. Report...continued from page 1)
need the help of our members in donating additional funds to cover the extra costs of printing. Any and all donations will be specifically earmarked for *The Octofoil* costs and not spent on anything else. If you wish to make a donation, send your checks payable to **The Ninth Infantry Division Association**, and marked for Octofoil costs. The generosity of our membership is greatly appreciated. Last year we got about \$3,000 in donations for this project and spent most of it on the Octofoil, so be generous again this year.

We again were able to show a small surplus on our Reunion 2008. The financial statement for the reunion is on page 16. The surplus will be turned over to the National Association. The pictures published in the last Octofoil seem to indicate that everyone had a good time in Orlando. Further information on the 2009 reunion will follow this article.

Bill Robey, 15th Engr.
Secretary-Treasurer

64th Reunion 2009 Ramada Inn, Bangor, Maine July 24, 25, 26, 2009

After considerable negotiations with the hotel, we finally agreed on a contract and it has been signed. We are faced with the problem of paying taxes this year as the State of Maine does not recognize a tax exemption for Veteran's Organizations. We are also being charged extra for the use of meeting rooms and hospitality rooms where we have not had to do so before. In the past if we used a certain percentage of the rooms that we blocked there was no charge for the meeting rooms. The costs listed for this year reflect the room rates, taxes, meeting rooms, service charges, breakfasts, Saturday dinner theater, and banquet.

We are going to follow the same procedures that have been in effect for the last 4 years. You must make your reservations using the form on page 18 and send it to me. Since we are going to hold the reunion earlier this year, we have less time to get everything together. The reason for the earlier date came from requests by our younger generation to hold it earlier so that families with small children can bring them before school opens in the fall.

Gail Eisenhower from the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary designed and mailed reunion reminder postcards to all New England members shortly after Thanksgiving. Hopefully this will give them time to get their schedules adjusted so a lot of them will be able to come to this reunion.

Now, the details. On Friday night, instead of a Pizza Party we are going to have an old fashioned New England Clam and Lobster Bake at the hotel. The menu will consist of Boiled Maine Lobster, Steamed Clams with drawn butter, grilled chicken breast, New England Clam Chowder soup, corn on the cob, potato salad, homemade corn bread, assorted desserts, coffee and tea, and pitchers of beer. Just reading the menu should make you hungry.

We will also be having breakfast, buffet style, on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday mornings.

Saturday night we will be leaving the hotel on charter buses to go to a dinner theater at a place called Spectacular Events. The name of the show and the menu have yet to be determined.

Sunday evening will be the big event of the reunion, the Banquet. Again this year we will be having Prime Rib with mashed potatoes, fresh vegetables, house salad, rolls and dessert. Coffee and Iced Tea will be on the tables as well. There will be a vegetarian dinner available, Pasta Prima Vera, vegetarian, served over linguine. There will also be a children's menu with Chicken Fingers, French fries and a vegetable. Before the banquet there will be the usual hour long reception and open bar with hot hors d'oeuvres (Scallops wrapped in bacon and two types of meatballs (BBQ and Sweet and Sour). We are also trying to work out getting bottles of wine with special Association labels, but this has not been worked out yet.

(continued on page 3)

World War II Veterans Honor Flight Network

For those 9th Infantry Division Association members who might want to take advantage of the **one day free** World War II Veterans Honor Flight Network to Washington, D.C., WWII Memorial, I offer my experience. I received an application during a N.Y. Chapter meeting and sent it to Honor Flight Long Island, c/o Southampton Town Department of Human Services, 116 Hampton Road, Southampton, NY 11968.

I was notified of my acceptance for an Honor Flight on Saturday, October 4, 2008. My only responsibility was getting myself to the Islip MacArthur Airport and back home again. My granddaughter drove me both ways.

I arrived at airport with other veterans at the appointed time of 8:30 a.m. We were greeted by our Flight Leader and his wife and processed. We were given breakfast if we wished, and a disposable camera. Each veteran of the 33 who showed up was given a guardian to assist him for the whole trip. My escort was a young lady volunteer (she had to pay her own way, which was financed by her regular job employer). At 9:30 a.m. we began boarding Southwest Flight #2571, with regular passengers on this commuter flight, and took off at 9:50 a.m. We arrived at Baltimore-Washington International about an hour later. We deplaned in 15 minutes, had a restroom break and boarded a waiting tour bus. Wheel chairs were available in the bus storage compartment. En route we were given box lunches and shown a video documenting the story of the WWII Memorial development.

We arrived at the WWII Memorial around noon and was greeted by fellow veteran Senator Bob Dole. Pictures were taken with him. We then toured the memorial, guided by our Honor Flight Leader, explaining the various tableaux, plaques and statues of the 50 states in tribute to World War II veterans. It was a moving experience, considering we-the-visitors were the ones the memorial honored.

Our itinerary then included a visit to the Iwo Jima Memorial and to Arlington National Cemetery where we witnessed the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

After the memorial visits we boarded our bus, heading back to the Baltimore Airport. On the way, we stopped for a delicious buffet dinner at the Golden Corral Restaurant. We arrived at the airport shortly afterwards and departed at 8:25 p.m. on Flight #2478, arriving at the MacArthur airport at 9:25 p.m. It was a wonderful day. I highly recommend the excursion if you can make the trip. Check "Honor Flights" in your area which are available spring, summer and fall.

John Tschupp (as related to Marv Levy)
2216 First Street
East Meadow, NY 11554



John (in wheel chair) with guardian and Senator Bob Dole

**Submission of articles for the
next issue must be received by
March 20, 2009**

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

Robert Glans sustaining member donation.

Edward Rickert in memory of David Pinkney, Co. A, 15th Engr. Bn.

Albert Cleo Murray sustaining member donation.

Rosamae N. Mooty in memory of my husband W.H. Mooty, F Co., 47th Inf.

Nancy De Benedittis in memory of my brother Cpl. Carl De Benedittis, D Co., 60th Inf.

Col. John Wessmiller sustaining member donation.

Paul Schumacher in memory of Ellen Schumacher, Emma Killen, George Booth, Bill Doty, and Walter Ricker.

Preston Stillings in memory of Adolph Wadalavage.

(64th Reunion 2009...continued from page 2)

We are also working on a visit to the Bangor Airport to welcome home military personnel coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Planes come in several times a month and we hope there will be one arriving while we are there. Details on this will be in a later edition of *The Octofoil*.

Now that the details are covered we come to the costs of this party. Our all inclusive price is as follows: Single room \$499.00, Double room \$354.00, Triple room \$305.00, Quad room \$281.00. These prices are **PER PERSON**, and include taxes and gratuities on the events at the hotel and the dinner theater. Reservations must be made using the reservation form on page 18. A reservation deposit of \$150.00 per person must be made by **April 15, 2009**, and final payment must be made by **June 15, 2009**.

One further word of caution, don't wait to the last minute to make reservations. It is easier to cancel a reservation than it is to get one at the last minute. This hotel is smaller than we have been using in the past, so try to get your reservations in right away. The hotel does have handicap rooms for those that need them and we have reserved all these rooms for our group. The hotel policy for children sharing the room with their parents is that any child under 18 can share the room with no extra charge. So a couple with two children only have to pay for a double room, plus the costs of events for children. Check with me about children's rates for the various events.

It will be easy for those driving to Bangor to find this hotel. Coming from anywhere in the country, drive east until you come to Interstate 95. Go north on I-95 into Maine and exit 182B. You will come out on I-395. Go to the first traffic light, turn right, and then an immediate left into the hotel driveway.

Air transportation to Bangor should be fairly easy. The hotel people told me that there are 50 or more flights a day in and out of Bangor International. I don't know how many are non-stop flights from other parts of the country so be prepared to change planes somewhere. The hotel does provide free van service to and from the airport since it is only a mile from the hotel.

(continued on page 16)

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; 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

Gilbert E. Gricoskie E Co., 39th Inf. Regt.	Martin A. Niverth 84th F. A. Bn	Adolph Wadalavage 9th MP
Edward P. Langham Btry B, 34th F.A. Bn	Leonard L. Tomassone D Co., 39th Inf. Regt.	Willard W. Weaver

TAPS LETTERS

Martin A. Niverth 84th F. A. Bn

I am informing you of the death of my husband Martin A. Niverth on August 31, 2008. He was a member of the Ninth Infantry Division, 84th Field Artillery Battalion. He fought from Africa to Sicily to England, France, Belgium, and on to Germany.

He enjoyed reading *The Octofoil* and attended many of the reunions.

Thank you, Nellie Niverth

Leonard L. Tomassone D Co., 39th Inf. Regt.

It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the passing of my husband of 62 years, Leonard L. Tomassone on August 18, 2008. Len served proudly with Company D, 39th Infantry. He cherished the close friendships he forged in the 9th Infantry Division.

He was a devoted husband and loving father and grandfather.

Sincerely, Edith C. Tomassone

Adolph Wadalavage 9th MP

Today I had a note from Kevin Wadalavage telling me that Adolph had died December 8th. I was in the MP's about ten months before Adolph and worked together, that I remember we were on a crossroad near Cherbourg. A French young lady fed us on lobster. I remember him in camp, using a ration box for a desk to write home. We were together when the airplane was shot

(continued next column)

TAPS OBITUARIES

Gilbert E. Gricoskie 1919-2008 E Co., 39th Inf. Regt.

Gilbert E. Gricoskie, 89, of 939 W. Holly St., died at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at Shamokin Area Community Hospital, surrounded by his daughters and family. He had been admitted on November 11th.

Gilbert entered the U.S. Army in June 1942 and served with E Company, 39th Infantry Regiment in Tunisia and Sicily, and was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign ribbon with two service stars, the Purple Heart for wounds received in battle, and the World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged on September 29, 1945.

He was married on February 19, 1944, to the love of his life, Jean (Genevieve) Rudewicz of Shamokin, who died on August 31, 2002. He worked as the weigh master and the payroll clerk at Ranshaw Auto Wreckers, and served as a Notary Public. He was a member of the former St. Stephen's Church, now Our Lady of Hope Church. He was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, and the Polish Cultural Club of Mount Carmel.

TAPS TRIBUTES

All photos and information provided by Mr. John Clouser, Gladstone, Michigan to answer the question about the plaque posed by Marv Levy, Greater New York Chapter in the Jul.-Aug.-Sept., 2008 issue. Also see Mail Call letter page 11)

May 10th Memorial Plaque Ceremony

(reprinted from *The Octofoil*, Volume 12, Number 3; April, 1958)

Here are the final plans and arrangements for our Memorial Plaque Ceremony to be held in Washington, D.C. on May 10th, 1958 at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Major General Van Houten will be the host for the 9th Division Association Plaque Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 11:50 A.M., May 10th, 1958.

At 11:35 hours General Van Houten will meet the plaque party in the Trophy Room where he will conduct a briefing of the ceremony. The spectators will form on the steps.



President John Clouser (black suit), to his left is Major General Van Houten, directly behind Mr. Clouser is Major General Louis Craig, and directly behind Gen. Craig is Vincent Guglielmino, First Vice President

At 11:50 hours, General Van Houten will escort the party onto the Plaza, through the Honor Guard, to a point near the Tomb. When the party has halted the band will play the National Anthem. At the completion of the music, the plaque bearer and bugler will move from the left flank. The bugler will take his post and the plaque bearer will hand the plaque to Mr. Clouser. If Mr. Clouser desire to make a brief statement he may do so at this time.

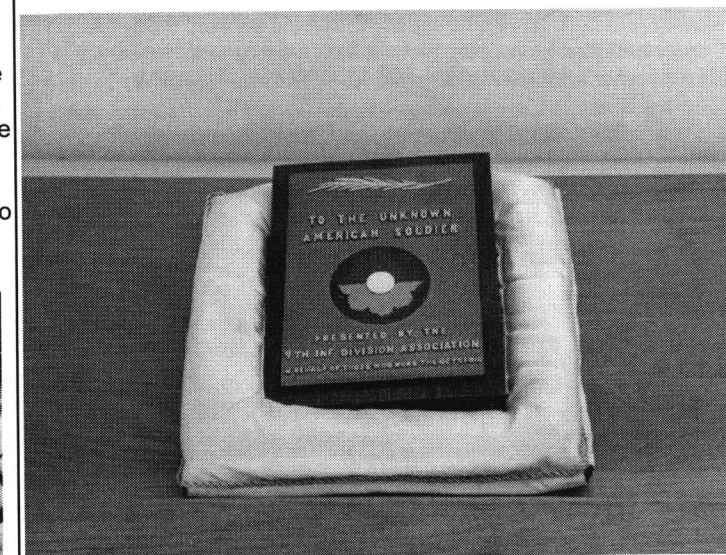


After the statement, Mr. Clouser will step forward and place the plaque on the stand.



General Van Houten will accept the plaque in the name of the people of the United States. After the acceptance, the drummer will play four (4) ruffles and the bugler will sound TAPS. At the completion of TAPS General Van Houten will escort the party back to the Trophy Room completing the ceremony.

The plaque will remain at the Tomb until sundown at which time it will be moved to its permanent place in the Trophy Room.



For all those who plan to attend, please, if you can, try to be at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. at 11:15 A.M. We know this will be a very memorable ceremony and all who can attend are invited. The Ninth Infantry Division Association plaque will be place in the name of our Association to commemorate the memory of the men who fought with the Ninth during World War 2.

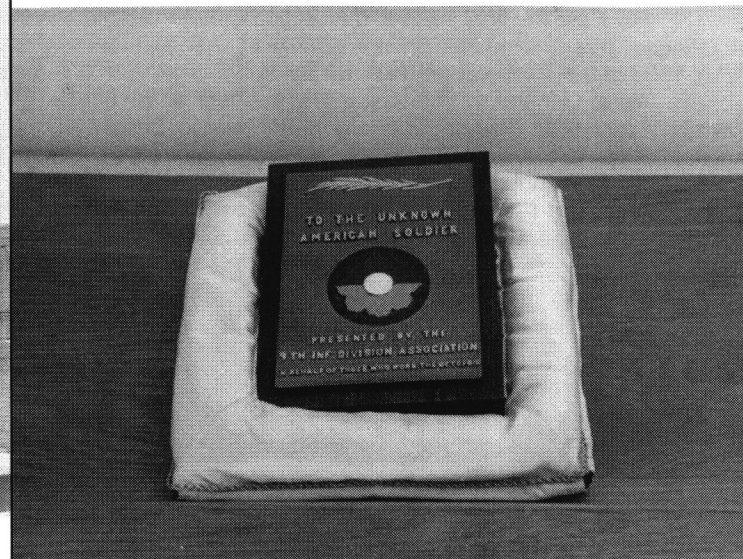
(continued on page 6)

TAPS TRIBUTES

May 10th, 1958
Memorial Plaque Ceremony
 (reprinted from *The Octofoil*, Volume 12, Number 4; July, 1958)



To The Unknown American Soldier



May 10th, 1958 shall be a day long remembered by the fifty people who attended this beautiful ceremony in Washington, D.C. Those who joined us will long cherish the wonderful memory attached to the honored occasion of this day.

We were indeed fortunate to have such a large representative group attend ceremonies as these. For example let's take a look at who represented the Division Association. Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig, Maj. Gen. George Smythe and family, Maj. Gen. Van Houten, Col. Feil, Col. James Richardson, Col. Hulley, Col. Pickett, John Clouser, Dom Miele, Dan Quinn, Jim Bruno, Vince Iannucci and family, George Apar and family, John Huffman, Frank Ozart, John O'Donnell and family, Tony Micke, Glen Moore, John Scully, Charles Ryder and family, Pat Moran, Libretto, Tony Chaconas, Charley Tingley, George Oakes and family, Art Schmidt, G. Teutenberg and our Gold Star parents and friends, Mr. and Mrs. McInerny, and Mr. Charles Sheridan.

To all those who assisted, Major General Harry P. Storke, Major Samuel King and the wonderful assist provided by Col. Fiel our thanks for making this a most wonderful event.

For those of our members who are interested, you will find this plaque in the Trophy Room, directly behind the crypt. Here indeed is a befitting memorial that is significant, and follows General Eddy's thoughts, "The men of no unit that fought in World War II felt this tie that binds more than did the men of the 9th Infantry Division. It inspired the ideal of our 9th Infantry Division Association. We wanted to perpetuate that wonderful relationship which only fighting men feel for one another. We also wanted to perpetuate the memory of those who died by our side while we were fighting." As of May 10th, 1958, we have indeed closed our ranks in homage to 5331 men.

As the echoes of the bugle resounded among the foothills of Arlington Cemetery, the valiant efforts of those who made the supreme sacrifice were commemorated as follows:

"TO THE UNKNOWN AMERICAN SOLDIER" Presented by the 9th Infantry Division Association, on behalf of those who wore the Octofoil.

The 50 living members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association who attended this ceremony were paying homage to the 4,581 men who gave their all for their country. The possibilities that one of the 750 men missing in action from the Ninth Division is not too far removed from being a reality that his is the Unknown soldier in the crypt.

Time and memories may fade, but occasions like these will live forever in the minds of those who attended this impressive ceremony.

TAPS TRIBUTES

Worcester Memorial Service
Sunday, October 26, 2008
Friends of Father Connors

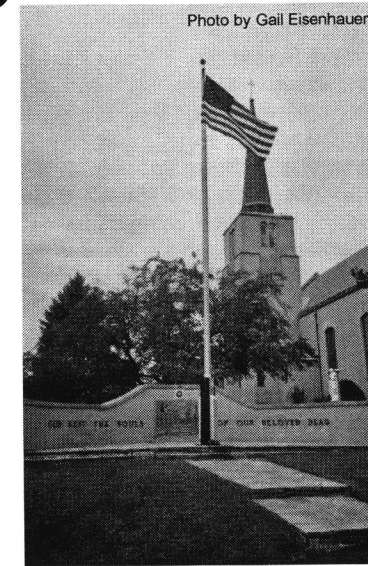


Photo by Gail Eisenhauer

The annual Mass and Memorial Service in remembrance of all the men who wore the Octofoil; both the 4,581 who fell on the field of battle and those who returned home and have since gone to their eternal reward was held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, October 26, 2008 in Worcester, Massachusetts. This year marks the 64th consecutive year of the Memorial Service started by Father Edward Connors in 1945. He once said "...the Worcester annual get-together is primarily not so much a convention, but a pilgrimage to pray for our beloved deceased who have gone off to God and to pray for our country and to pray for a just and lasting peace." (*The Octofoil*, Volume XXXVIX, No. 5, Nov-Dec 1984). Father Connors passed away January 28, 1986. Father William E. Champlin, current pastor since 2002, continues the tradition to honor the 9th Infantry Division men.

Proudly representing The Ninth Infantry Division Association were John and Alexandria Bosko, M Co., 47th Inf. and Herb Olsen, G Co., 47th Inf.

This year marks a significant change in attendance by representatives of the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary. The Sons and Daughters Auxiliary unanimously approved the purchase of this year's wreath at their business meeting during the 63rd Annual Reunion. Gail Eisenhauer, daughter of John C. Eisenhauer initiated the purchase of the wreath. Also attending were Sandra and Phil Bosko, daughter and son of John



Herb Olsen and John Bosko
 Photo by Clare Irwin

Bosko; Karen Olsen-Colella, daughter of Herb Olsen; Clare Irwin, daughter of Richard Irwin; Rick Merrill son of Dwight Merrill and John Toffey, son of Jack Toffey.

Before the service the attendees met in the basement of the church for the traditional "Father Connors' Coffee Shop" where they enjoyed refreshments hosted by parishioners Marjorie Levesque and Rosemarie Cosgrove, daughter of Louis P. Vivolo. Following the Mass, Fr. Champlin invited everyone out to the Memorial to say a few prayers for the 9th Infantry Division. Herb Olsen spoke a few words and thanked everyone for coming. After the service all attendees went to the Crowe Plaza Hotel for a very nice brunch. The wreath was taken by Gail and placed on the grave of John Losnes, L Co., 39th Inf. who passed away June 19, 2008.

Stephen Sycks, Cubmaster, Pack 54, Boy Scouts of America again provided scouts and for the first time organized them as an honor guard to post the Colors and provide escorts before the Mass to seat the honored guests in the first two rows of



Front Row: Sandra Bosko, Karen Olsen-Colella, Clare Irwin
 Back Row: Phil Bosko, Gail Eisenhauer, Rick Merrill, John Toffey
 Photo by Clare Irwin

the church. According to Mr. Sycks scouting teaches young men Duty to God and Duty to Country as well as citizenship and leadership skills. Part of his curriculum includes teaching his scouts about the 9th Infantry Division, what the Memorial represents, why it was built and the legacy of Father Connors.



Front Row: Teddy Borowy (holding the flag), Mark Roach, Bryan Cleary, Harrison Sycks
 Back Row: Herb Olsen, Father Bill Champlin, James Cleary, John Bosko
 Photo by Clare Irwin

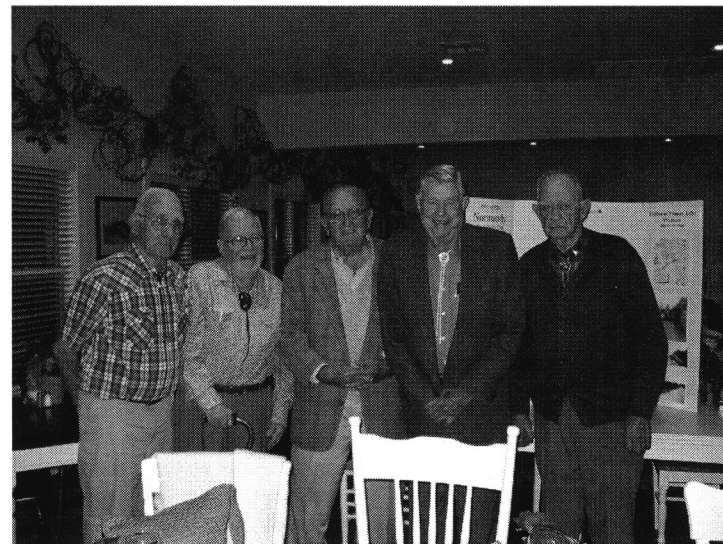
TEXAS AND THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER



Jack Blann
President

The Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter of the 9th Division Association met for their fall meeting November 6th and 7th at Summers Mill Retreat and Conference Center near Belton, Texas on the historic Chisholm Trail. It has become the favorite meeting place of our chapter. The location is close to Austin, Texas and the Dallas/Ft. Worth areas. Our accommodations allow us to have a social hour in the afternoon of November 6th, and a catered dinner at the Summers Mill dining facilities. A catered breakfast is provided at the lodge facilities occupied

by our group and is followed by a business meeting attended by the entire group.



l to r: Chuck Illsley, Herb Stern, Jack Blann, John Arnold, Sam Burns
Photo by Mary Blann Cooper

In attendance were Sam Burns and Anita Beiber, John and Mary Ruth Arnold, Jack and Lavonne Blann, Herb and Kathy Stern, and Chuck Illsley. Gordon Schneider who usually reports our meetings had become ill and had to cancel. Our Sons and Daughters Auxiliary was well represented. In attendance were Mary Blann Cooper, her daughter Bonnie Denbo, Dr. Charles Stern, and Nancy and Richard Rutner.

For the social hour on November 6th the ladies brought an assortment of food and drink. Our dinner was catered. Jack Blann, President, asked various members to speak about their war experiences after landing on Utah Beach and beyond. Jack had prepared one of his fabulous collages with photos of the period.

At our business meeting Jack Blann brought attention to the National's favorable treasury report. The group dedicated the meeting to our chapter founder, John W. Miller, who passed away in the spring of 2008. Jack Blann reported that the National plans to meet in Bangor, Maine, July 24-26, 2009. Jack also mentioned that the Sons and Daughters would back financially a 9th Division plaque at Remagen. Bonnie Denbo shared her experiences in Iraq.

Jack Blann proposed that our spring chapter meeting would be held March 26-27, 2009 at Summers Mill once more. Before the meeting adjourned Mary Cooper, on behalf of the auxiliary stated once more that the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary would support whatever "the old timers" decide to do. The chapter adjourned on a beautiful fall day in the country.

Submitted by Herb Stern substituting for
Gordon Schneider

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Emil De Donato

2009 Florida Chapter Reunion: The Reunion Committee has been busy searching for a suitable location. A final decision has been made and we will hold our reunion on April 20, 21, 22, 2009 at the Ocean Shore Resort, 1000 North Atlantic Ave. (1A), Daytona Beach, Florida. It will help the Reunion Committee tremendously if you will send a note, phone call or e-mail stating that you plan to attend. Send to: Emil De Donato, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] immediately after reading this article. Also, any suggestions you would like considered.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Chuck Van De Poel: We were sorry to learn that his wife Dolores suffered a severe stroke on her right side and is now convalescing in a nursing home approximately 10 minutes away from her home in Jacksonville. Dolores is able to walk a little with the aid of her caretakers and a walker. She is legally blind but can talk. Chuck spends most of the day with her. Anyone wishing to send her a note or a get-well card, please send it to Dolores Van De Poel, [REDACTED]

Lila Stansell: In her Christmas card note, Lila states that she is slowly recovering from her stroke suffered last year. She and H.F. regret that they were unable to attend the National Reunion in Orlando but says they will make every attempt to come to the next reunion providing it will be held in Daytona Beach.

Wally Richardson: Good news! Wally is feeling much better and looking forward to possibly making the trip from Franklin, Indiana to our Chapter reunion in 2009. Wally sold his lakefront home and is moving into a 2 bedroom 2 bathroom apartment, a short distance from his present location. Wally served in A Co., 47th Inf.

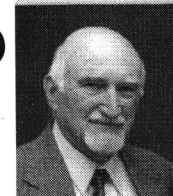
Norris Gray: In a telephone call, Norris said that he is able to get around much better in a new walker that he is using. Norris has a serious problem with his knees which kept him from attending the National Reunion in Orlando. He and his wife Dorothy enjoy going out to dinner practically every evening or going to the Officer's Club at the Cape. Norris worked at NASA for over 45 years starting in 1950. He attended many shuttle launches as the "Fire Chief" at Cape Canaveral.

Marty Gross: On December 9th, Marty had surgery to remove a cataract from his left eye. He and his wife Rosalyn are planning a cruise to the Caribbean in January. Marty, Ralph Williams and Emil De Donato make up the Reunion Committee. They plan to meet sometime in January to make final arrangements for the 2009 Chapter Reunion.

Membership Roster: Please send in any changes to your address since January 2007 as plans are being made to up-date our new Chapter roster. Thank you. Emil

TAPS SOUNDED

Edward P. Langham, Btry B, 34th F.A. Bn: Edward Paul Langham, 90, of Sebring, Florida passed away on June 10, 2008. He participated in 7 of the 8 campaigns including D-Day and all the battles until the end of WWII. He was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star with one cluster. He is survived by his wife Dorothy of 67 years. Condolences may be sent to Dottie Langham, [REDACTED]



Marv Levy

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

On Friday, November 11, 2008 the NY Chapter met at its usual command post in the Franklin Square Library, Franklin Square, Long Island, NY. At 1:00 p.m. Prez Joe Charvat opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the convocation by resident chaplain Joe Killen. We held a moment of silence, remembering our deceased wartime buddies. A black and white chair drape honored the MIA's and POW's.

Minutes of the previous October meeting were read by Killen (since this scribe was not able to attend). Secretary/Treasurer Joe Maiale gave the financial report, which showed the chapter in good shape. Maiale also acknowledged a chapter \$50 donation to the "Honor Flight Network" for WWII veterans excursions to the Washington D.C. WWII Memorial. (John Tschupp, who took advantage of the program describes his experience in an accompanying article). Maiale also suggested we check if we could arrange a NY Chapter group-flight for the spring/summer/fall program. Members interested in the program should fill out the individual Honor Flight application which will be collected at our December Holiday Party.

Busy Maiale also supplied pizza and sodas for lunch during the meeting.

The next order of business was the nomination for 2009 chapter officers. We decided to keep the 2008 officers in place. They are President Joe Charvat, 1st VP Anton Dietrich and 2nd VP Ed Harris. They were duly elected by acclamation, and Maiale presented Prez Charvat an Octofoil Honor Plaque for his 2008 service.

Some discussion followed regarding the next reunion in Maine, general 9th infantry Division Association issues, and plans for our Holiday Party at the Lantern Restaurant in West Hempstead on December 19. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Attending the meeting not mentioned above were Anton Dietrich, Ed Harris, Marv Levy, John Tschupp, Tony Varone and Al Zenka.

We Lose a Member

Sadly, on December 8, 2008 we lost one of our stalwart members of the 9th Infantry Division Association. Adolph Wadalavage died in a hospital four days after being found by a neighbor, collapsed in front of his house. According to his son Larry, Adolph was not taking his prescribed medications. Adolph, an MP during the war, had been an outspoken proud champion for his 9th and its issues and bylaws. He loved to regale anyone within earshot about his favorite subject-Remagen, in war and peace. We will miss him.

On sick call, President Joe Charvat still makes our meetings despite lung cancer which requires daily draining of fluid from his lungs. With medications he says he feels surprisingly well and looks forward to our Holiday Party and his presidential duties.

Tony Varone who had appendicitis recently among his other ills, collapsed in the VA Northport Hospital waiting room. His blood pressure was 64, and he was scheduled to receive a heart pacemaker. Prep for the device has been done and is waiting for its installation shortly. Wife Viola's knees has improved somewhat but daughter Michelle still suffers from Crohn's disease and now, diabetes. Son Richard is being treated for a spinal tumor.

The NY Greater Chapter sends heart-felt condolences to Adolph's family, and best wishes to our 9th families for speedy recovery and better health.

On a lighter note, NY Member Charlie LiBretto and wife Esta, now transplanted in Texas, recently enjoyed a Caribbean cruise. Charlie's sea legs are just now getting back to his acquired cowboy legs.

NY members reminder: dues are no longer received by the chapter. Send dues to National c/o Secretary-Treasurer (continued next column)

William G. Robey, 1005 Elkhart Street, Oxon Hill, MD 20745-2118. Make checks payable to The Ninth Infantry Division Association. Note "Greater NY Chapter" on check.

Marv Levy, Recording Secretary

LADIES CORNER

Since there isn't much auxiliary news to pass on to you. I thought it would be nice to catch up with some personal news from your officers.



Judy Goldsmith
President
Ladies Auxiliary

It has only been about 6 months since we all enjoyed the last reunion. We find ourselves planning the next reunion in Bangor, Maine in July. I am sure some information will be listed in this Octofoil copy so I will leave that to the reunion committee.

We had our share of happenings in Southern California this year. This summer we had the hottest for long lengths of time than ever before. This was followed by "too close for comfort" wildfires. We live close but far enough away not to have suffered any losses of homes. The unfortunate people that have lost so much besides their homes is in devastating numbers. It affected rich and poor alike. Now many must protect their home in and around the burn areas from mudslides as we go into our rainy (and cold) season.

The snow level is so low that it's only about 40 miles north of us.

Now for some good news...we now have 6 great grandchildren with 3 being born in the last 12 months. Our house needs some stretching when we are all together. Our health is pretty good and hope for the best when we polish the tarnish from the next Golden Year.

Now a few words from your Secretary, Vice President, Jackie Armstrong, received recently. Jackie had eye surgery but is doing well and is thrilled to read and drive without glasses. Her Golden Year seems a little brighter now. Jackie wishes to thank all the ladies that attended and contributed to the wonderful reunion in Orlando. She was able to add six new members to her list. I will bring her e-mail with me and read it at the reunion in July as I think her comments are relevant to our purpose. There is, however, one paragraph that I want to include in this column now. "To all the ladies who are not members of the auxiliary, Jackie invites you to jump in and join us, the water is not cold, you will find it warm and soothing. For many years I did not join and did not participate, now I realize how much I missed. It is great to be more acquainted with the women. I also admire the donations we give to veterans." (This is why we have our raffle) "So all you ladies who are not members, come, come. We need you."

Since this has turned into a rather long article, I will save any news from Jean Geary, Treasurer, for the next column. Jean has been suffering from an eye infection recently. Hope she is feeling better and enjoys the holidays.

Wasn't that a great looking Octofoil last issue? I doubt if that will come like that very often as it's quite expensive. What is important, to me, is what is inside the publication, right?

Please send comments and news to me at my e-mail address below.

Tonight we light the first of 8 candles for Hanukkah. Then we celebrate Christmas this coming Thursday.

Along with the New Year of 2009, my hopes are high for a better United States and the World. Peace on Earth.

Sincerely, Judy Goldsmith, President, Ladies Auxiliary

SEEKING INFORMATION

Catherine Liebel

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Mort Wolk who saw my request in the *Jewish Veteran* magazine.

My father is a WWII veteran and just celebrated his 84th birthday this past September. He has been trying to locate a friend from the war and we are hoping you can be of some assistance. I will list all of the information I have below, and would appreciate any direction you can provide to help us. You can reach me using the above contact information.

Thank you for helping. Our dad is our hero and we would like him to find one of the dear friends that he fought alongside whose friendship and bravery helped him survive so that he could come home to build our family.

Sincerely, Catherine Liebel

Father: Sergeant Gerald Charles Liebel
H Co., 39th Inf. Regt., 1943-1945

Address at time of service: 210 Carling Rd., Rochester, New York

Looking For: John Gillman (spelling ?)

H Co., 39th Inf. Regt.

From Morristown, New Jersey

(May have been awarded the Silver Star)

Raymond M. Connolly

The latest Octofoil was great and I really appreciate all your efforts while wearing two hats (Secty-Treas)

The last page displayed the "stamps" that are available, and it stood out how many units were missing, especially mine, the 9th Signal Company.

We may have received them before leaving Ft. Bragg, but I am not sure. We each received two, as usual, reproductions have been made with brass (gold) outer rings, but ours were silver. I gave one to my daughter Lynne, and the other one is in this humble packaging.

As former secretary of the Philadelphia Chapter of the 9th, along with Jack O'Shea and John Sabato (the father), we had a very large group, alas, many have been called home.

Respectfully, Ray Connolly

P.S. When you return the devices please insure it.

Gordon M. Binder, MD

Having reached my 90th birthday I am applying for membership in an outfit described in the last issue of *The Octofoil* as "an exclusive, much loved, respected and one of a kind club", the Ninety's Club.

I was twenty-five when I went to Normandy, and seeing buddies killed right beside me, I never thought I would get to be 26.

Now I am 90! Amazing! Thanks be to God!

Sincerely, Gordon M. Binder, MD

P.S. Enclosed are a couple of recent photos.

Herbert Stern

As a charter member of The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, I get periodic mailings from them. The one I enclose for you has 2 interesting articles-pages 12 and 13. (see *History Road*, pages 14 and 15 this issue)

Regarding Martello, this points out again that there are 9th Inf. Members who because they were POW's don't know the association exists. I would be most appreciative if you could contact Bill Robey, let him get in touch with Martello (more likely the museum people will give Bill the address and phone number).

The reference above "American Artillery" in the Kasserine Pass is of historic significance. Col. William Westmoreland headed the 9th Div. Batteries which played a major role in stopping the Africa Korps advance. There are so few of us left who were there, Red Phillips, Louis Prince, and I are among the 9th members during those engagements.

Once we are able to get our house repaired (from Hurricane Ike) I will finally be able to sort out mementos, clippings, photos, maps etc. for the project team.

Right now I can't even get to these items since furniture is stacked on top of all this stuff.

Feel free to use any of the material in the *V-Mail* for *The Octofoil*.

Best Regards, Herb

(We have made contact with Mr. Martello, he is a member of the association.)

SEEKING INFORMATION

Paul Schumacher

In the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer (near St. Laurent-sur-Mer), Normandy, France, there is a marker for a 47th Inf. Regt. soldier.

The marker is the identity of:

Adolph Schumacher
PFC 47th Infantry Regiment
9th Infantry Division
Home: South Dakota
KIA July 20, 1944

I would like to make contact with any member of Adolph's family. Also, with anyone in the 47th Inf. who may remember him in 1944.

Was Adolph one of my relatives? I don't know but I plan to explore that question when any of Adolph's relatives respond to my request.

Send comments and inquiries to the above address or call me.

SEEKING INFORMATION

Terry Barnhart

Would appreciate any help to contact Capt. Frank Petty, CO, E Co., 47th Inf. during March, April, May, 1945 or any family members. Capt. Petty is supposed to have taken photos of E Co. at the end of the war and I would like to get copies of these photos.

My father, Robert G. Barnhart, served in E Co. and passed away March 13, 2006. Thank you.

Sincerely, Terry Barnhart

John J. Clouser

In the July-August-September issue of *The Octofoil*, a report from Marv Levy of the Greater New York Chapter, asked about the plaque from the Association to the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

A proposal was made by someone to the Board of Governors to present a plaque to the Unknown prior to 1957. No action was taken to implement the proposal. I was elected to the Board and was selected to be President in 1957. Stan Cohen the Secretary-Treasurer told me of the proposal and the situation. General Van Houton who was commander of the D.C. Military District, and had previously served with the Ninth, had a design made for the plaque. Stan showed me the design which I took and had the plaque made at a foundry in Skokie, Illinois. In May of 1958 a Board of Governor's meeting was held in Washington, D.C. The plaque was presented at that time.

The photographs I am sending show the Board of Governors, members of the Association and others who were present. The members were predominately from the Washington area and New York.

Information about the photographs:

1. Shows the plaque being presented to me by a Sergeant of the ceremonial escort.

2. Shows me after I presented the plaque to the Unknown.

3. Shows me as the Association President waiting to make the presentation. Behind me is a former Division Commander Major General Louis Craig, and behind him is Vincent Guglielmino, First Vice President of the Association.

4. Shows the plaque.

5. A picture of the Association members and others who were in attendance.

Will you please return the pictures to me.

Sincerely, John Clouser

(The noted pictures have been returned as requested-see *Taps Tributes*, pages 5 and 6 for reprinted articles)

American WWII Orphans Network

Helen H. Vernon

daughter of PFC Elmer B. Heath,
B Co., 47 Inf. Regt.

KIA 9 March 1945

Resting in Henri-Chapelle Cemetery,
Belgium

We enjoyed a wonderful conference in Tucson, Arizona at the Westward Look Resort beginning November 7th through the 10th. We were able to meet and greet all the siblings in the Hospitality Room and browse through the bookstore for AWON gifts and just getting acquainted. Our first event was a reception and a sing-a-long of the old 40's music, and songs that were special to many of us. Maggie Malone led the group for a festive night of singing and reminiscing.

On Saturday, we were welcomed by our president, Judy Hoffman and were treated to several personal stories by fellow AWONERS. We were also privileged to hear Brigadier General John W. Nicholson, USA (Ret.) Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission (overseas cemeteries) who spoke of the ABMC and its role in the upkeep of our father's final resting places. We also held "sharing circles" where AWONERS shared with each other their personal stories. These were at times very moving and very enlightening.

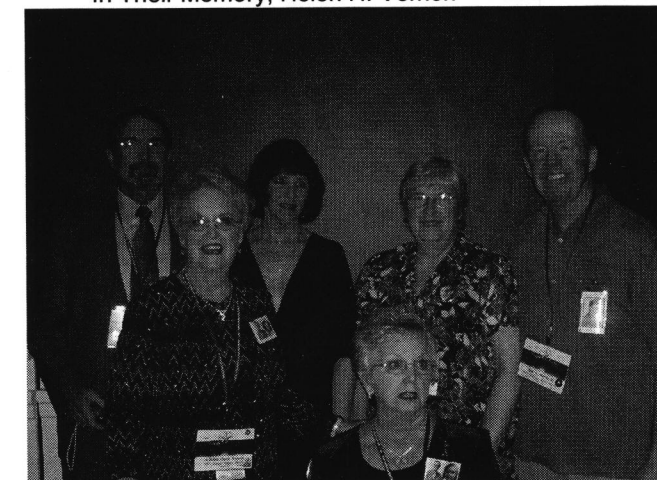
Sunday took us on a bus tour to the Pima Air and Space
(continued next column)

Museum where the Memorial Service was held. The grandchildren in attendance spoke each of our father's names and we had a military honor guard. After this service we were treated to a delicious box lunch, then we were allowed ample time to tour the museum before our return to the Conference Center. The rest of the day we had some free time to just enjoy the beautiful surroundings at the Westward Look Resort. There were walking trails and swimming pools and even an outdoor hot tub for our enjoyment.

Monday found us with a full schedule of speakers including Sharon Estill Taylor, Ph.D., AWON member; Stephen Watson, VP and COO of the National WWII Museum and Robert W. Mann, Ph.D., D-ABFA Director and Forensic Anthropologist, JPAC Forensic Science Academy, Hawaii. The afternoon session was an open AWON Business Meeting and our grand finale was the Banquet on Monday night.

The time passed so quickly! Memories were made and bonds were established that will keep us close in heart even though our homes take us all over the country. God has richly blessed us to have had such an exciting time and to have made such contacts that will continue as we grow old together.

In Their Memory, Helen H. Vernon



Front row l to r: Helen H. Vernon and Nancy H. Lawson, daughters of PFC Elmer B. Heath, B Co., 47th Inf.
Back row l to r: Larry Dexter, son of Platoon Sgt. King Dexter, K Co., 60th Inf.; Nancy Matheny Morrell, daughter of CPL Harvey Matheny, G Co., 39th Inf.; Gail Eisenhauer, daughter of 2Lt. John C. Eisenhauer, K Co., 60th Inf.; Ron Burrus, grandson of PVT William E. Adams, C Co., 15th Engr Bn

Charles Vanderpoel

This year Do and I celebrated our 60th anniversary in February. Do has been in the hospital three times in 2008. The last time was on September 13, 2008 when she was admitted with a massive stroke paralyzing her right side. She is in Heartland nursing home. She is progressing very slowly and is depressed at times. Please feel free to call me at 904-724-3633 so we can fellowship. I would love to hear from you.

You're thoughts and prayers are much appreciated.
XOXOXO, Chuck and Do

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The Literary Ninth

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(continued on page 13)

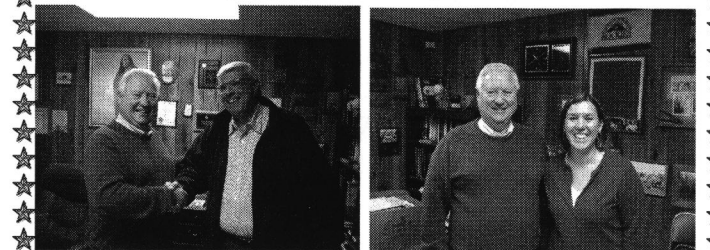
OCTOFOIL LIBRARY PROJECT

As reported in the last issue the project is off to a great start with total donations amounting to \$4,250. On December 4, 2008 the entire collection of books and manuscripts from "Red" Phillips was delivered to Rocky Mountain Microfilm & Imaging, Inc. in Denver, Colorado. In addition to the above, several personal memoirs, several large topographic maps of Germany, 2 CD's of combat records of the 26th F.A. Bn. and several old issues of *The Octofoil* and the *Fort Bragg Post* newsletters were also delivered. This amounts to approximately 15,000 pages of various sizes.



Rocky Mountain Microfilm & Imaging, Inc.
1540 El Paso Blvd.
Denver, Colorado 80221

Mr. Roger Gudenkauf, owner of RMMI gave Terry Barnhart and myself a personal tour of his facility and explained how his staff will use their equipment to scan and index all the various materials that we will be sending. This is a family owned business, his wife Shirley and two of his eight children, Paul and Amy, make this operation run smoothly. He has promised to have a prototype DVD available for viewing at the reunion in July.



Roger Gudenkauf and William Sauers

Roger and daughter Amy

A sincere thank you to Terry Barnhart for making the initial contact with Roger. A challenge he could not resist, Roger immediately recognized the historical value of preserving the Ninth Infantry Division documentation and making it available in one place.

The scanning and indexing will begin in January. Please keep those monetary and materials donations coming. This is an opportunity to leave a legacy of this great Infantry division and honor the men who made it happen.

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:	Association Historian:	Assistant Coordinator:
William Sauers	Henry G. "Red" Phillips	Terry Barnhart

NOTE: Donated materials will be returned upon request



ORAL HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

Dominic Martello

39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division



Dominic Martello was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, went to high school at Jesuit High School and upon graduation joined the New Orleans Fire Department. Martello never gave the Army much thought, as he says, "The average fella never thought he would be in a war until the draft came." Drafted by the Army before Pearl Harbor, Dominic was assigned to the 39th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division. Shortly after joining the 9th, he was shipped overseas for the initial landings in North Africa as part of Operation Torch.



The green US troops that landed between Algiers and Oran in November of 1942 had no idea what they were about to get into. The training that they had been given in the United States was not sufficient as Dominic recalls, "We needed all the training we could get. We were fighting professional soldiers and we were mostly civilians. These guys had been fighting in the desert for years. We were going to catch hell."

Dominic was the driver for a half-track that had 75mm howitzers mounted inside the vehicle to act as mobile artillery. Not long after landing in North Africa, Martello's half-track took a direct hit from a German 88mm artillery round, rendering it useless. With the loss of his vehicle, Martello fell in with the rest of the "dogfaces" of the 39th Infantry Regiment. As the North African campaign wore on, Martello's unit slowly whittled down to a group of men that scarcely resembled their original state upon landing in November. By February at the Kasserine Pass, the heaviest weapon that his unit possessed was his Browning Automatic Rifle (B.A.R.).

Put at the edge of the Kasserine Pass in an effort to disrupt any German infantry attempting to infiltrate American lines, Martello and the rest of his unit were pounded by German artillery. As he puts it, "Those 88s were pretty close; you could hear them go by." After the cessation of the artillery barrage, the German infantry attacked with a force that Dominic felt he could deal with, but the tanks that supported the German infantry were something that Dominic's unit could not stop by any means. Martello recounts, "When you have a .30 caliber rifle and a tank is coming at you... you will not survive. The rifleman has no chance against an armored vehicle. When I saw those tanks coming..."

Reprinted from: V-MAIL, News From the National WWII Museum, Vol. 9, No. 4: Winter 2008
Article written by Seth Paridon

it's a hard pill to swallow. How are you going to fight against a tank with a B.A.R.? There's no way."

The tanks and most of the infantry cut off Martello's group. Constant machine gun fire kept the GIs pinned down. "I was in a cactus bush when they were shooting at me. That was the only place I could go. I figured I had better jump in there because I could get those cactus needles out of my behind a lot easier than that lead that they were shooting at me."

That night Dominic's group pulled out of their positions and attempted to escape the encirclement that had cut them off from their own lines earlier that day. The small band of GIs marched down a desert road and followed a German unit toward what they assumed

were the American lines. Martello remembers, "It was so dark the Germans couldn't tell if we were Americans or some of their guys." The next morning, out of ammunition and more importantly, water, the small band of men were betrayed by native Arabs and captured by a German tank unit. The German officer in charge of the tank unit gave instructions to his men to shoot Martello and his comrades. However, the Germans refused. Dominic says of the incident, "I thought I was going to die right then."

Dominic was captured at the Kasserine Pass in 1943 and spent 27 months in a German Prisoner of War Camp. When he was captured he weighed 200 pounds, but when he was liberated by US troops later in the war, he weighed a mere 87 pounds. Martello remembers, "We were so malnourished we couldn't even walk."

The war ended in 1945 but even now, the war still rages for Dominic Martello. "I'm back there, that's my problem. Post Traumatic Stress, I was just back there. I can be driving my car and BAM... I'm there. I can be eating supper and BAM... I'm there... 24 hours a day, seven days a week... all my life. I'm controlled by memories... I don't want to be but I am."

Dominic Martello was interviewed by Museum Historian Thomas Lofton in Martello's home in Metairie, LA on August 28, 2008.

For more information on the Museum's Oral History Program, call 504-527-6012 x 311.

(Mr. Martello is a new member in The Ninety's Club)

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

The M2A1 howitzer and American Jeep highlight the Battle for North Africa

As part of The National World War II Museum's Road to Victory expansion, the Campaigns Pavilion will highlight some of the major military campaigns of the war in the Pacific and European theaters. However, exhibits will also highlight areas of the war that have not received as much attention as more famous battles and operations. Included in this category is a section on North Africa, highlighting desert warfare in battles like Kasserine Pass, El Guettar and Operation Torch.

As part of the North Africa exhibition, visitors come face to face with two large scale artifacts that were critical to the success of American forces in the North African Campaign the US M2A1 105mm howitzer and the American Jeep.

The M2A1 howitzer was the principal weapon of Divisional Artillery and served as direct support for the US Army Infantry. It was the single most common artillery piece in the American Armed Forces of the Second World War.

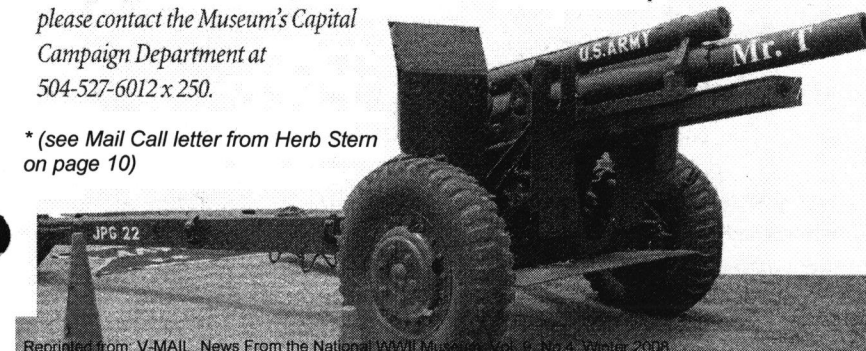
Of particular importance is the role that American Artillery equipped with the 105 mm howitzer played in the North African Campaign especially in the battle of Kasserine Pass. Author and historian Rick Atkinson notes in *An Army at Dawn* that "three bright gleams radiated from Kasserine's wreckage. First was the competence of American artillery at Sbiba, at Djebel el Hamra and at Thala." At Sbiba, "One GI likened the effect of 105 mm shells on armor hulls to 'taking shoe boxes and shoving them flat.' At Djebel el Hamra and Thala, effective artillery fire from US 105 mm Howitzers stopped the German advance at a time when nothing else would. *

Also included in this immersive exhibit will be an American Jeep. General Eisenhower noted the jeep as one of the most important factors in winning the war and no exhibit on the war would be complete without one. Because of its 1942 production date, this jeep was the perfect candidate for inclusion in the North African exhibit. The jeep will be equipped with proper radios and field phones to portray the battery command and communications center.

Both the Jeep and the howitzer are currently awaiting restoration and painting so they may properly reflect their appearance from the North African campaign. The Museum is currently seeking sponsors to fund the renovation of a warehouse at 940 Magazine St. into the Restoration Pavilion. This would enable artifacts to be restored in a safe, secure environment. The Pavilion would also provide the public with a sneak peek into the process.

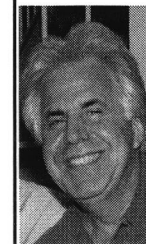
To help support the creation of the Restoration Pavilion or the North Africa exhibition, please contact the Museum's Capital Campaign Department at 504-527-6012 x 250.

* (see Mail Call letter from Herb Stern on page 10)



Reprinted from: V-MAIL, News From the National WWII Museum, Vol. 9, No. 4: Winter 2008

SURVIVORS' STORIES: NORTH AFRICA 1942-43



Philadelphia resident Michael Fraticelli is working on an "independent, educational, non-profit film" called "Survivors' Stories: North Africa 1942-43" which started when he found a letter written by his father. Michael's father, Anthony Fraticelli served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World

War II. He was aboard the U.S.S. Thomas Stone when it was torpedoed during Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa. Also on board with Michael's father was the entire 2nd Battalion of the 39th Combat Team commanded by Lt. Col. Walter M. Oakes.

Michael has been researching, interviewing, and documenting survivors' stories for several years and started production of the documentary about two years ago. He states, "I am trying my best to reach out to as many remaining 9th Division veterans as possible. And to include an additional chapter of short interviews covering topics beyond North Africa".



Michael (back row, third from the left) with some of his crew of re-enactors on location at a quarry in the Philadelphia area.

Photos courtesy of Michael Fraticelli

At the present time the documentary contains interviews of 9th Division veterans Larry Faulkner, Joe Barnett and John Sabato.

Michael intends to be at the 64th Reunion in Bangor, Maine and would like to interview as many veterans as possible. He will also have a CD of his documentary available for viewing. Please look him up and talk with him while at the reunion. If you cannot attend the reunion and would like to share your story you can contact him as follows:

Michael Fraticelli

E-mail: WW-II@comcast.net

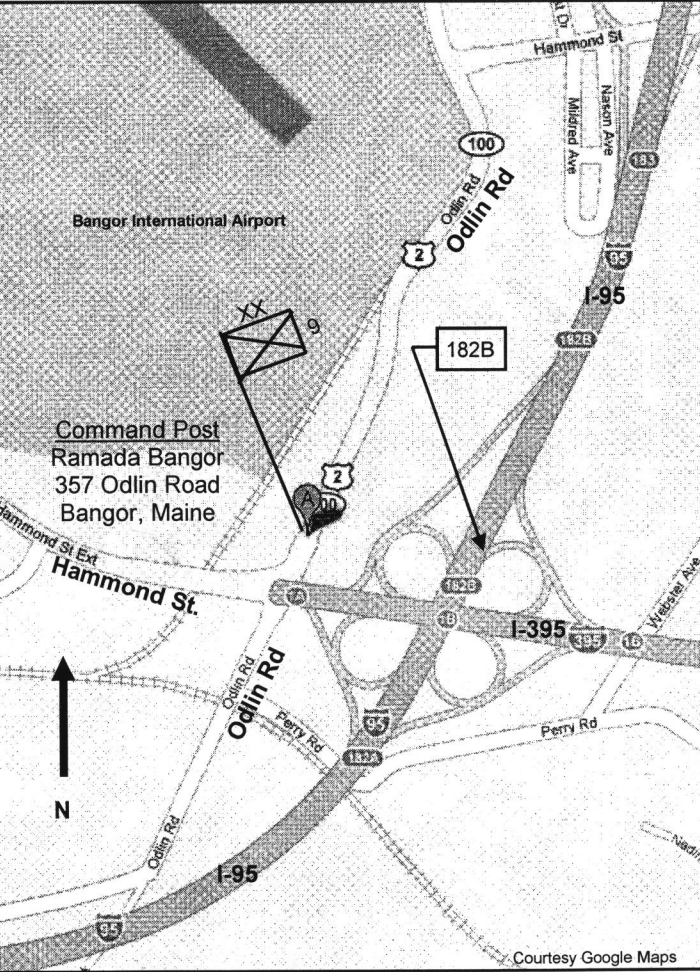
You can also visit his website: www.ww2survivorstories.com

(64th Reunion 2009...continued from page 3)

Anyone interested in attending some of the events, but not staying in the hotel, should contact me for costs for individual events. If any of you plan on coming in early or staying after the reunion, the hotel is offering our special rate for 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion. Please indicate on your reservation form arrival and departure dates.

Hopefully this gives enough detail for everyone at this time. More information in the next Octofoil, and you can always call me for other information also. See you in Bangor in July.

Bill Robey, Reunion Chairman
Jim Merrill, Co-Chairman



Command Post Driving Directions

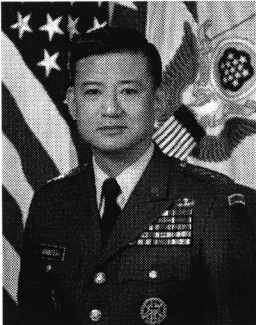
Follow I-95 North
Take exit 182B toward Hermon/US-2/ME-100N/State Hwy 100W
Merge onto I-395W
Continue on Outer Hammond St. W (signs for Hermon/State Hwy 100/US-2)
Turn right at ME-100/Odlin Rd/US-2
Command Post will be on the left

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT			
63rd Reunion 2008			
Income			
Member & Chapter payments		\$64,094.00	
Less Refunds		8,114.00	
			\$55,980.00
Expenses			
Hotel (Rooms & Events)	\$45,000.00		
Refund from hotel	2,598.70		
		\$42,401.30	
Medieval Times Dinner		5,436.05	
Bus Transportation		1,275.00	
Group Photo	900.00		
Less Sales	660.00		
		240.00	
Miscellaneous			
(Program Books, Bagpiper, Wine, Gifts, Color Guard, Floral Arrangements, 2007 Surplus to National Assoc., etc.)		2,508.59	
Reunion Committee Expenses (Sept. 2007 to Oct. 2008)		2,421.41	
		\$55,242.35	
Surplus (to go to National Assoc.)		\$ 737.65	

MAIL CALL (continued from page 11)

Henry G. "Red" Phillips

On December 7, 2008, President-elect Obama named retired Army Chief of Staff General Eric K. Shinseki as his nominee to be the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Gen. Shinseki was born in 1942 on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1965. He served two combat tours and was wounded in action in Vietnam. He was also a former CG 9th Infantry Division (Vietnam) and wears the Octofoil on his right sleeve. He served with distinction in Europe, the Pacific and stateside, eventually becoming the senior officer in the U.S. Army from June 1999-June 2003. He retired from active military service in August 2003. Gen. Shinseki's military decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Clusters), three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.



He will be of interest to all vets including those of our association.

"Red" Phillips

Joseph B. Kash

Enclosed is a photo of myself that you requested for *The Octofoil*. I appreciate all the work that you do in behalf of the veterans. The past copies arrived over the weekend. I was overjoyed to receive them. They sure made my day. The most important papers for me to read. What memories of my life.

I was honored to have served 4 years with the Ninth, 9/01/41 to 9/01/45. Married 62 short happy years. 4 loving sons and family. So you can see how blessed my life has been.

Will say so long for now. Sending all our love and a million thanks in our behalf. Good health to you and the family. And God Bless everyone over the Christmas holiday.

Your friend, Joe

Légion d' Honneur
Legion of Honor

Consulate General of France



l to r: William Tucker, 82nd Airborne Div. and Col. John Wessmiller, A Co., 60th Infantry Regiment
July 14, 2008

Between them, Mr. John Wessmiller and Mr. William Tucker hold three Purple Hearts, three Bronze Stars, a lifetime's worth of war stories, and, now, the eternal thanks of an indebted nation.

Sixty-four years after the two helped liberate France from German rule in World War II, Wessmiller, of Chatham, and Tucker, of Harwich Port, were honored July 14, 2008 by the French Consulate General in Boston. The two men, along with three other Massachusetts residents, received the Legion of Honor, France's highest civil and military distinction.

The awards, given on behalf of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, were presented as part of the consulate's annual Bastille Day celebration.

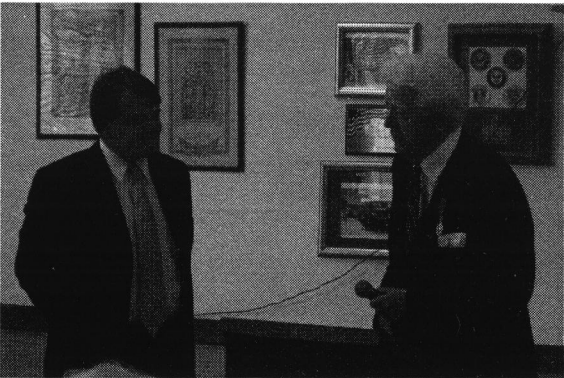
"These men did something so important that we could not say thank you," said Alexis Berthier, a spokesman for the consulate office in Boston. "Without them, we wouldn't be a free country. ...It's tremendously important that we say 'thank you' and we say 'France will not forget what you did.'"

Part of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, Tucker parachuted into the village of Sainte-Mer-Eglise, along the Normandy coast, just after midnight on June 6, 1944. He fought to defend the village, believed to be the first French town liberated by the Allies, before moving on to combat in Holland and Germany, including fighting in the Battle of the Bulge.

Wessmiller, 89, fought in Normandy and after landing on Utah Beach, he was wounded during a German ambush on the road to Barneville, a small town on the Normandy coast.

Of the 13 soldiers who led the charge toward Barneville, Wessmiller was the only survivor. "This is for them," he said. "This is for all the men I lost. ...I can still see it. It's as fresh to me as the day it happened." He spent 23 years in the Army after the war before moving to Chatham, spent years working to organize a memorial outside Barneville in tribute to the lost men. The memorial was finally built several years ago, but he has yet to see it. "I haven't been back (to France), yet," he said. "I always meant to go, but I was always on the move (with the Army). Now, I'm getting older, and physically, I can't do it."

(Excerpt from Cape Cod Times, Tuesday, July 15, 2008)



l to r: Mr. Pierre Mourier and Lt. Col. Henry G. "Red" Phillips, M Co., 47th Infantry Regiment
September 29, 2008

On September 29, 2008, one World War II veteran from California, Mr. Henry G. Phillips, who participated in the Liberation of France was awarded France's *Légion d' Honneur* by the General Consul of France in San Francisco, Mr. Pierre-Francois Mourier, during a special ceremony in Grass Valley, in order to express France's eternal gratitude for those who crossed the Atlantic to liberate it from oppression in 1944-45.

Mr. Phillips served as a platoon leader in M Co., 47th Infantry Regiment. His regiment assaulted Safi, Morocco, on November 8, 1942. Later, he was wounded in action and was awarded the Silver Star for his leadership during the Battle of El Guettar in Tunisia. Recovered, he served as executive officer with M Co. in Sicily. He then went to England and prepared for D-Day. The 9th Infantry Division, as VII U.S. Corps reserve, came ashore on Utah Beach on June 10, 1944. It was responsible for the liberation of Cherbourg and the 47th Inf. Regt. was awarded the French Fouragère for that action. He was serving as the battalion's operations officer (S3) while it was attached to the 3rd Armored Division on its sweep across Northern France. When his column approached the town of Hirson near the Belgian frontier, the enemy blew its bridge across the Oise River. While on patrol in the town he encountered and, though wounded, destroyed a German machine gun position. For this he was awarded a second Silver Star Medal. He was also awarded the European and Mediterranean Service Medal with eight stars.

Founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the National Order of the Legion of Honor is the highest honor in France. It recognizes eminent service to the French Republic. Recipients of this honor are named by decree signed by the President of the Republic.

(Excerpt from Press Release-Consulate General of France in San Francisco, September 15, 2008)

For further information on how to apply for your medal see Volume LXIII, No. 3, Jul.-Aug.-Sept., 2008 issue on page 2. You can also contact Mr. Henry G. "Red" Phillips, 184 Northridge Dr., Grass Valley, California 95945; phone no. 530-272-7268 or e-mail: hgphillips@mac.com

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Make checks payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association, Inc.**
Send to: **William G. Robey, Secretary-Treasurer**

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ 9-Digit Zip Code: _____
Phone No.: _____ E-mail: _____

I was a member of:

Battery: _____ Company: _____ Regiment: _____ Other 9th Unit: _____
I wish to sign-up for the following: (circle one or more)

Life Membership: a one time fee of \$75.00 Three Year Member: \$35.00 Regular Annual Member per year: \$15.00
Ladies Auxiliary Member per year: \$5.00 Associate Member — Octofoil Subscription Only: 3 years \$25.00

I wish to make a donation to the following: (circle one or more and fill in the amount)

Sustaining Member: \$ _____ Memorial Donation: \$ _____ In Memory Of: _____

I wish to purchase the following: YES or NO (circle one)

Ninth Infantry Division Association Decals: 2 for \$1.00 **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:** _____
Chapter to be designated: (circle one)
Greater New York Michigan Florida Texas and the Greater Southwest NONE

64th ANNUAL REUNION
FRIDAY TO SUNDAY — JULY 24, 25, 26, 2009
RAMADA BANGOR
357 ODLIN ROAD
BANGOR, MAINE 04401

Make payments by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER payable to: **64th Reunion 2009**. Mail the below completed Room Reservation Form with the payment to: **William G. Robey, Reunion Chairman**

Deposits of \$150.00 per person must be made by April 15, 2009. Final payment **MUST BE MADE BY JUNE 15, 2009**. Reservations made after June 15, 2009 will be subject to room availability. If final payment is not made by June 15, 2009, 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.

ROOM RESERVATION FORM

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____ 9th Div. Unit: _____

City: _____ State: _____ 9-Digit Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell/Work Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

If other than M/M, I will share with: _____

Special Requests: (Handicap Room, special diet, etc.) _____

ROOM RATES PER PERSON for our 3 night stay, which includes rooms, reception party, banquet, 3 breakfasts including gratuities for these events only and Saturday night entertainment.

Accommodations — Please circle below: These prices are **PER PERSON**

SINGLE
499.00

DOUBLE
354.00

TRIPLE
305.00

QUAD
281.00

Hotel will give us the same special rate for 3 days before and 3 days after our reunion for those who want to stay longer in Bangor. Please indicate on the form if you wish extra days. Cost will be added to above. The costs for meals, etc., will be figured separately for those who only want to attend functions and not stay at the hotel. Check with Bill Robey at above phone number for these costs.

Officers and Board of Governors August 2008-2009

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Martin Gross, 1st V.P.- _____
Jack Blann, 2nd V.P.-1 _____
Domenick Fiore, 3rd V.P.- _____
William Robey, Secty-Treas- _____
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Henry G. "Red" Phillips, Association Historian, _____

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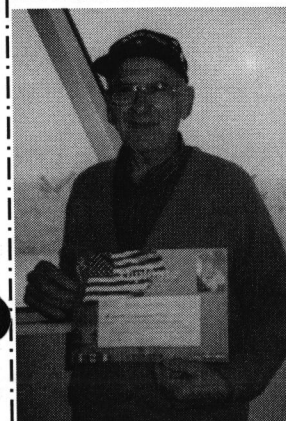


Octofoil Editor
William Sauers



Association Historian
Henry G. "Red" Phillips

SPECIAL HONOR



On 26 September 2008 we were in the very impressive WW II museum and visitor center on Utah Beach in France standing by the display case looking at the scenery that our forces faced on 6 June 1944. Seconds later while we were looking out the window at Utah Beach, I was explaining to my son Kirby, my daughter Joyce and to a cousin Ruth Ellen Schumacher where on the beach the 9th Infantry Division (and I a little bit later) had landed.

The administrator of the museum had overheard our discussion and inquired about my experiences and we talked about the role the 9th Infantry Division played in isolating the German forces at Cherbourg. He excused himself and returned a few minutes later saying he had a certificate to present to me.

I was both honored and overwhelmed at being declared a Citizen of Utah Beach, Saint Marie-du-Mont on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the landing.

It was an incredibly wonderful surprise.

Paul W. J. Schumacher, C Co., 39th Inf. Regt.

UNIT INSIGNIA STAMPS

Proudly display your unit insignia with these special order stamps. 24 stamps to a sheet, one design per sheet, with your choice of postage (most common is 42 cents). Cost is \$15.00 per sheet. Missing the 60th Field Artillery Battalion, 9th Quartermaster Company, Headquarters Company, 9th Band, 9th Reconnaissance Troop (Mecz), 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 746th Tank Battalion, 376th AAA-AW Battalion, and 709th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company. If you have a good color copy of any of these insignias please send to Bill Robey.

Make checks payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association**

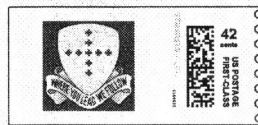
Send your order to: William G. Robey, [REDACTED]
prompt. (Stamps not shown actual size)



The Ninth Infantry Division Association



60th Infantry Regiment



9th Medical Battalion



34th Field Artillery Battalion



39th Infantry Regiment



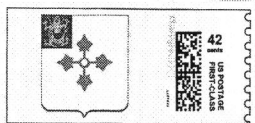
15th Engineer Combat Battalion



9th Military Police Platoon



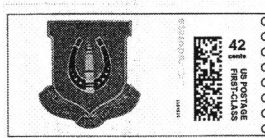
84th Field Artillery Battalion



47th Infantry Regiment



9th Signal Company



26th Field Artillery Battalion



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