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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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1-1-2009

## The Octofoil, January/February/March 2009

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# The Octofoil

Jan.-Feb.-Mar.  
2009

Volume LXIV, No. 1



President  
Henry S. "Hank"  
Geary

## President's Message

Time is getting close, so, if you haven't registered as yet, do it right away. For those arriving a day early, my wife Jean and I will be there on July 23rd, along with others so we can welcome you. Arrive early and let's get a head start on the news since our last get together. We never seem to have enough time to talk to all our friends and buddies in those few days.

Have kept in touch with Jim Merrill and Bill Robey, things seem to be coming along just fine. Bill says we should have a good crowd attending. I would like to say thanks to Jim and to Bill for all their hard work to make this reunion a great gathering. It takes a lot of time and arranging to make this happen. Thanks so much.

Received some sad news recently. One of our faithful members and officer, Jack Blann died February 27th. Our sympathy goes out to wife, Lavonne, and daughters, Mary Blann Cooper, Bette Blann Prochaska, and family members. He will be greatly missed.

This will probably be the last Octofoil before the July 24th reunion. So good health to all, have a safe trip to Maine. We'll see you there.

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

### Preliminary 64th ANNUAL REUNION PROGRAM Ramada Bangor Bangor, Maine

#### Friday, July 24, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.—Registration-Hospitality Room: Captains Room #102  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Board of Governors Meeting: Admirals Room #122  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.—Clam Bake Reception: Courtyard

#### Saturday, July 25, 2009

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.—Breakfast: Poolside  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Registration-Hospitality Room: Captains Room #102  
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—Memorial Service (Be seated by 9:15 a.m.): Kennebec Room  
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Group Photo: Poolside  
12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.—Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon: Penobscot Room  
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.—Ladies Auxiliary General Business Meeting: Penobscot Room  
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.—Association General Business Meeting: Admirals Room #122  
6:15 p.m.—Buses leave hotel for dinner and show: Hotel Lobby

#### Sunday, July 26, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Breakfast: Poolside  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Registration-Hospitality Room: Captains Room #102  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—Sons & Daughters Auxiliary Meeting: Admirals Room #122  
11:00 a.m.—Buses leave for lunch at Seadog Restaurant and boat tour: Hotel Lobby  
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.—Harbor Boat Cruise/Tour  
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.—Board of Governors Meeting: Admirals Room #122  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.—Banquet Reception with open bar: Ballroom  
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.—Gala Banquet: Ballroom

#### Monday, July 27, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Breakfast: Poolside  
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—Hospitality Room: Captains Room #102  
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 \$97.00 per room per day.

**Note:** Final room assignments and times may change.

See Vol. LXIII, No.4; Oct.-Nov.-Dec., 2008 issue for driving directions.

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

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#### 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 Ninety's Club Members



Sabatino Agostinelli (91)  
Rochester, N.Y.



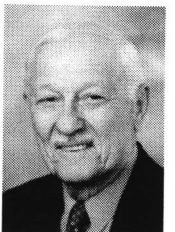
John Celler (90)  
Stamford, Conn.



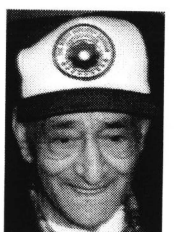
Steven D'Angeli (91)  
Medford, Mass.



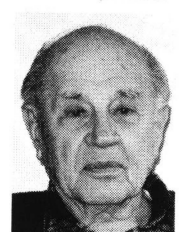
Emil J. DeDonato (90)  
Dunnellon, Fla.



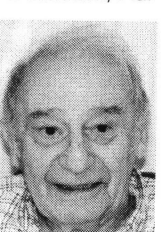
Edward G. Janosik (91)  
Springfield, Mo.



Pat J. Maisto (90)  
Shallotte, N.C.



Frank Meanor (91)  
West Boylston, Mass.



Pat J. Zona (90)  
East Sandwich, Mass.

### Missing Photos

Andrew Kopack (90), Nazareth, Pa.  
Anton Dietrich (90), Richmond Hill, N.Y.  
Preston W. Stillings (94), Fairhope, Ala.  
Carl Price (90), Hickory, N.C.  
Harold Schramn (90), New Milford, N.J.  
Col. John Wessmiller (90), Chatham, Mass.

Please send your recent photo to the editor  
ASAP!!!

### CORRECTIONS

Vol. LXIII, No. 4; Oct.-Nov.-Dec., 2008:

On page 13 in the article about the Octofoil Library Project the delivery of materials to Rocky Mountain Microfilm & Imaging was on Friday, December 5, 2008. The date was misstated as December 4, 2008.

On page 16 in the mail call letter about General Eric K. Shinseki it was stated that he was a former CG 9th Infantry Division (Vietnam). He served in Vietnam in the 9th and the 25th Infantry Divisions as an officer. He was promoted to the rank of General in June 1997.

Attention!!!  
North Africa Campaign Veterans

If you served in the North African Campaign please contact Thomas Lofton at the National WWII Museum. His phone number is 504-527-6012, ext. 311. Mr. Lofton is in charge of the museum's Oral History Program and wants to document your North African Campaign history. Also, please call Michael Fraticelli in Philadelphia at 215-844-4074 or e-mail him: WW-II@comcast.net. He is collecting stories for his documentary film "Survivors' Stories: North Africa 1942-43."

## SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT AND 64th REUNION UPDATE

There is not much for the Secretary-Treasurer to report this time, but there are a couple of interesting things that have happened since the last issue.

First, this report is being submitted to the editor at the very last minute, due to my computer crashing on March 11th. It seems that somehow my computer acquired a virus that got past my spam and anti-virus programs and infected the computer. I had to go to Dell, the manufacturer, for help. In dialing their phone number for customer service, I ended up talking to a guy in Mumbai, India, and he was able to help me. First, he took over my computer by long (very long) distance and was able to show me where the virus had occupied my computer. It took him three days to finally solve the problem, and my computer is back in full operation again.

So with that problem solved, back to business. I put a small notice on the first page of the last Octofoil asking any of our members who served in the North Africa Campaign to contact me. I had a request from the World War II Museum in New Orleans for information about any of our members who had served in North Africa. So, as the members began to call me I relayed the message and many of them called the museum and did interviews over the phone, and he visited several of them in person. I was totally surprised at the number of our members who served in the North African Campaign. After the first couple of dozen phone calls, I began to keep track and registered more than 75 of our members who served in North Africa. I know there are more than that, as I know some who have not contacted me. If you served in North Africa and have not called me, please do so soon. Call my toll free number which you can find on the Reunion Reservation Form. While talking to them I asked about their ages and most were in the upper 80's. There were several who were over 90, and I think we now have over 30 members of the 90's club, which is amazing. Several of them have said they were going to try to get to the reunion in Bangor. I hope many of them make it.

I realize that the economy is causing problems for almost everyone, and I am happy to report that the Association is in full operation and solvent. All bills, except the one for the last Octofoil, have been paid and we still have money in the bank.

So, with that happy ending, I will close my report as Secretary-Treasurer and get to the part about the Reunion Update. See you in Bangor in July.

Bangor, Maine, July 24, 25 and 26, 2009

Reservations are coming in fairly regularly, and I just sent an updated rooming list to the hotel. We, as of March 16th, have 31 rooms reserved, and considering that Bangor is off the beaten track and kind of out of the way to get to, I think this number of rooms being reserved this early is just great.

REMEMBER-DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS MAY 1, 2009, AND FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE JUNE 15, 2009.

This deadline is an extension of the original deadline of April 15. Since the economy is affecting everyone, I thought the extension might help some make up their minds at the last minute. The final payment date IS NOT CHANGED, it is still June 15, 2009.

Additional details about the reunion:

1. Van service is provided free by the hotel from the airport. When you get to the baggage claim area you will find direct line phones to many local hotels. Find the one for the Ramada Hotel and call them. By the time you claim your bags and get to the door, the van should be there to pick you up. The hotel is only about a mile from the airport.

2. A detailed program will be in the program book that everyone will receive at registration.

(continued on page 6)

## 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

Leo Feinstein in memory of 60th F.A. Bn. Men

Herb Stern in memory of Jack Blann

Herb Stern in memory of John W. Miller

John B. Knight in memory of Ray Haire

Lorenzo J. Filetti in memory of James Etue

Anthony J. Narducci sustaining member donation

Henry S. Geary in memory of all L Co., 47th Inf. Regt. Members

Alice Granbery in memory of Jack Blann

Barbara Saum in memory of husband Hal Saum

## BEAUTIFUL FLAG ON A POLE

By  
Richard L. Stoltz

I had a dream last night, and before I forget it, I had to write it down.  
As I awoken to a brand new day, what do I say?  
I can't remember the night before, if I forgot to pray.  
But I thank my God; he got me through the night,  
And now I know, everything will be all right,  
As I walk to my window, and pull back the drapes  
Then what do I see? A beautiful flag waving at me.  
Sometimes she's hanging down loose,  
Just waiting for the wind, to give her a boost.  
Her name is Old Glory, and I salute her with pride.  
She has been through hell, a lot in her time  
But always managed, to come out on top.  
We almost lost her, in World War Two  
Fighting two world powers of the day, Germany and Japan  
She turned blood red, and hung limp and low,  
By the time that war was through.  
I know, because some of my blood went on French and German soil,  
Along with that Old Ragged Flag in World War Two.

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



## 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

George Bastedo K Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Ray Haire M Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Harry Odom
Jack R. Blann E Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Donald V. Hyde B Co., 9th Med. Bn.	Hal Saum Hq Co., 47th Inf. Regt.
Arthur L. Crowe 9th Div. Artillery	Charles A. LiBretto Hq Co., 60th Inf. Regt.	Evert E. Stong 26th F.A. Bn.

### TAPS LETTERS

#### Jack R. Blann E Co., 47th Inf. Regt.

It is with deep sorrow that I report to you that my dear friend, Jack Blann, passed away on the evening of February 27, 2009. As many of you know Jack was a member of E Company, 47th Regiment. He had been President as well as Vice President and a member of the Board of Governors of the Association. Jack was in charge of the Association's reunion in Houston in 2001.

His work and concerns had been manifold on behalf of our Association.

Many of you know Jack wrote "A Private's Diary: The Battle of Germany As Seen Thru the Eyes of An 18 Year Old Infantry Rifleman".

Jack and I worked closely together in keeping the Texas/Greater Southwest Chapter an active organization.

He was one of the most decent persons I have ever known.

We lost a real champion for the 9th Infantry Division Association.

I have lost a dear friend.

Herb Stern

9th Med. Bn. and 9th Inf. Div. Hq., G-2 Section

#### Ray Haire M Co., 47th Inf. Regt.

Check enclosed in memory of Ray Haire. He received his final promotion recently. M Co., 47th Machine Gunner par-excellence. We were together at tent city, Carolina maneuvers, Safi, 11-8-42, El Guerter, Sedjeane, Green and Bald Hills, Bizerte, also Sicily. If that wasn't enough, he volunteered for the Special Forces, fought at Anzio, Salerno and Rome. Returned to Ducktown, Tenn. and raised a fine family. He was also a successful businessman. We met at several reunions.

Rest in peace Ray, you were a good one.

John "Jack" Knight

#### Donald V. Hyde B Co., 9th Med. Bn.

My husband of 63 years, Donald Hyde, passed away Nov. 25, 2008. He was 91.

Don served in Africa and the European Theater from Utah Beach, Remagen, Battle of the Bulge to the Elbe River.

He was proud of his association with the 9th Infantry Division and especially the 9th Medical Bn. where he made many friends.

He was laid to rest at DeLand Florida Memorial Gardens' Garden of Memories.

Cynthia M. Hyde

#### Charles A. LiBretto Hq. Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

The family of Charles LiBretto is sad to report after a brief illness his passing on January 9th, 2009.

Charlie would have celebrated his 90th birthday on March 9th.

He was in the 60th Inf. of the 9th Division, serving in Hq. Co., and was charter member of the association attending all but three reunions since 1946.

He was serving as a member of the Board of Governors at the time of his death and was past President of the New York Chapter.

Charlie was always proud of his service with the 9th and cherished the friendships he made during and after the war.

May God bless all past and present men of the 9th Division.

Esta, John and Charlene LiBretto

#### Leona M. Price Wife of Carl W. Price

It is with very sad note, that I would like to let you know, my lovely wife, Leona M. Price of 63 ½ years has passed from this life into a much more glorious life with Our Lord. She was 87 years old.

Carl W. Price

## TAPS OBITUARIES

### George Bastedo 1920-2008

K Co., 47th Inf. Regt.

George Bastedo, 88 years old, passed away into God's loving and eternal care on Saturday, April 9, 2008 at Virtua Hospital in Mount Holly, from complications following a stroke in early February. He was a longtime resident of Leisuretown in Southampton, New Jersey and he was active in the United Methodist Church of Vincentown.

Mr. Bastedo served in the United States Army, K Company, 47th Infantry, 9th Division during World War II. He joined the Army as a private in 1941 and served in Africa, Italy, France, and Germany and finally came home as the Company's 1st Sergeant.

George Bastedo was born and raised in Hasbrouck Heights, Bergen County, New Jersey. He worked for UniRoyal-Goodrich Tire Company after the war until his retirement in 1980. In 1981, he moved to Leisuretown with his sister, the late Helen Bastedo. They were both active members of the Church and quiet donors of many charities.

George Bastedo was in the sixth generation of descendants who had served in the U.S. Military. He and his sister were proud of their forbear William Bastedo who served in the New Jersey Militia from 1776 to 1781 during the Revolutionary War.



### Jack R. Blann 1926-2009

E Co., 47th Inf. Regt.

Jack Richard Blann passed away on February 27, 2009. He was born May 28, 1926 in Marlin, Texas. Jack is survived by his childhood sweetheart and beloved wife of 62 years, Lavonne Fischer, also of Marlin; children Bette Prochaska, Paul Blann and wife Debbie, and Mary Cooper and husband Randy. He is also survived by five grandchildren, a sister and brother.

Jack was an honored WWII and Korean War veteran, decorated with a Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, 2 Bronze Stars, and the Combat Infantry Badge. He was active in the Army Reserves for many years, retiring with the rank of Colonel. After the war, he returned to Texas A&M University, where he had been a proud member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. He received a degree in Civil Engineering. In 1949, he joined Humble Oil Company, eventually transferring to Houston with Exxon Production Research. During this time he traveled the world as a consultant and instructor, specializing in artificial lift technology where he holds a patent, and made dear friends worldwide.

Jack was awarded many professional honors, including recognition from S.P.E. for Outstanding Leadership. He was recognized by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers for being a P.E. for over 50 years. He was a member of Pioneer Oil Producers and A.P.I., organizing the A.P.I. Gas Lift Task Group. He was a past president of the 9th Infantry Division Association and a Diamond Member of the Century Club of A&M. He was proud to receive the Marlin Distinguished Citizen Award and was a longtime member of the Masons. Jack was an active member of Fair Haven United Methodist Church since 1967. He was an avid writer who published his own textbooks, poems, and papers. A Private's Diary, an account of his experience as an 18 year old serving in the 9th Infantry Division during WWII, was written during the war and published in 1997, receiving high praise from all who read it. He will be remembered for his delicious barbeque, candy making, and family Christmas cards. His humility, generosity, integrity, and loving nature enhanced the lives of those he touched and will always be cherished.



### Charles A. LiBretto 1920-2009

Hq. Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

Charles A. LiBretto, 89, formerly of Paramus, N.J., passed away on Friday, January 9, near his home in Fairview, Texas. Charles was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and lived in New York City and New Jersey until 2003. He was a World War II veteran, having served with the Ninth Infantry Division in eight campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy and Germany. He retired in 1982, having been a member of the ILGWU. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Esta (Boccuzzi); his son John, and his daughter Charlene Peiper; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

### Harry Odom 1915-2008

Of all the characters to have inhabited this island (Monehegan Island, Maine) over the past century, few stood as tall—both literally and figuratively—as the Odom brothers.

Sidney, Doug and Harry arrived as young men in the middle of the Great Depression and opened a general store that would serve as a community hub for decades to come. They cut and hauled ice, delivered kerosene and lobstered in the winter, and kept their shelves stocked with the best meats and wines in the summer.

On Nov. 19, Harry Odom passed away at the age of 93. He was the last living brother, and his loss has prompted notes and telephone calls of condolence form around the country to family members.

When reflecting on his uncle, one word surfaced easily in Ben Odom's thoughts.

"Kind," the Cape Elizabeth resident said. "It didn't matter if you were a millionaire or if you had 10 cents, he treated everybody the same."

Ben Odom's father was Sidney Odom, who was about 20 years old when he was asked to restore a defunct general store on Monehegan Island. Sidney brought his brothers, then only teenagers, from Massachusetts to the island with him. They fixed up the place and ran the store in the summers until the start of World War II.

Harry Odom enlisted in the Army and was a staff sergeant and platoon leader in the Ninth Division. He fought in North Africa, Sicily and France. He then landed at Utah Beach during the D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

In August 1944, Mr. Odom was captured in Germany and was a prisoner of war until he escaped in April 1945, shortly before Germany's surrender.

During the war Mr. Odom was wounded twice, and received a Purple Heart with Clusters, the Bronze Star, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the Prisoner of War Medal.

(Mr. John A. Leahy Jr., Dover, N.H., states that Harry Odom was captured at Mortain, France)



## TAPS OBITUARIES



**Evert E. Stong**  
1912-2009  
26th F.A. Bn.

Evert Erwin Stong, age 96, died on January 8, 2009, at his home in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The son of Ralph Culbertson and Martha Blanche (Erwin) Stong, he was born on November 7, 1912, in a sod house on the family farm near Supply, Oklahoma. The family moved to Oklahoma City in 1920, where he graduated from Classen High School in 1930. Evert attended the University of Oklahoma, graduating in 1934 with Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with Aeronautical option. Active in ROTC, he was also commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. On June 1, 1935, in Oklahoma City he married Mary Alice Coon, whom he met while attending high school. They were married for 64 years until her death in 1999. After his graduation from college, he worked as an engineer for the Thompson Aircraft Company in Kansas City and the chief engineer for the Wiley Post Aircraft Company in Oklahoma City. Subsequently, he was the county engineer for McLain County, Oklahoma. In 1940, Evert volunteered for active duty, serving initially as a First Lieutenant in the 26th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina before becoming the Intelligence Officer for the 60th Field Artillery Battalion. Promoted to Captain in 1941, he became a Major and the Intelligence Officer for the 9th Infantry Division in 1942, participating in the North African Campaign. In 1943, he received a battlefield promotion to Lieutenant Colonel after the Battle of Kasserine Pass and, subsequently, he commanded the 26th Field Artillery Battalion in Sicily, France and Belgium until November, 1944. Evert then served on the general staff as the Chief of the Operations Subsection of the European Section, preparing daily action reports on activity in the European Theater. He was released from active duty in November, 1945 and promoted to Colonel in 1946. His decorations included the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Croix de Guerre with Palms, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Theater Service Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal with 5 battle stars. In 1946, he formed Phillips & Stong Engineering Company (later Phillips, Stong & Coon), an engineering and surveying company that worked principally in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, but also in Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. He served as city engineer for Edmond, the Village and Warr Acres and retired in 1983. Evert remained active in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1946 to 1972, serving in the 95th Infantry Division, first as executive officer and then commander of the division artillery and finally as assistant division commander. He attended the Command and General Staff College.

### (Secty-Treas. Report...continued from page 3)

3. For those who need to rent a car, there is a car rental at the airport. If you desire to rent a car, make the arrangements there, or if you decide to get one later, the hotel will provide van service to the airport when you desire to go.

4. Bangor International Airport is the former U.S. Air Force base known as Dow AFB. It is one of the few airports where charter flights arrive from Afghanistan and Iraq bringing home troops after their tour of duty in either place, or if they are coming home on leave or for any other reasons. The people of Bangor have organized a Greeter Service to meet each one of these flights and welcome the troops home. If there is a flight scheduled to arrive during our reunion, they will notify us, and if any of us want to join the greeters they said they would be glad to have us join them in welcoming the troops home. I have done this a couple of times here near home at the Baltimore-Washington Airport, and it is quite an interesting and emotional experience. I hope there is a flight during our reunion so that some of us can go to the airport for the welcome party. More on this in the next issue of the Octofoil. Our hotel has offered to provide van service if needed to get some of our members to the airport for this event.

5. You may want to check airline prices for flying to Bangor on Tuesday, July 21st or Wednesday, July 22nd. Cheaper ticket prices may be available so you could save some money on airfare. Just remember that if you save airfare there is the extra cost of \$97.00 per room per day at the hotel.

We still have one more issue of the Octofoil before the reunion, but this is the last one before the deadline for reservations. Please make your reservations now if you have not already done so. It is much easier to cancel a reservation than it is to make one at the last minute. There are several things being done differently this time, including having an old fashioned New England Clam and Lobster Bake instead of a pizza party. We are also having some special guests for that event and also some special guests at the Memorial Service on Saturday morning. Exact information on these two things has not been completely finalized, so details are not available at this time. More on this in the next issue.

Our Memorial Service this year will have a new Master of Ceremonies. George Brown, our Judge Advocate, has agreed to (continued next column)

replace Jack Blann in this job, and he tells me that he will follow the basic format of previous ceremonies this year also.

If you have any questions about the reunion, call me on my toll free number and I will try to answer your questions. My toll free number is on the reservation form, and while you are looking up my toll free number, fill out the reservation form and send it to me with your deposit. Don't put it off till the last minute. As I have said before, SEE YOU IN BANGOR.

Bill Robey, Reunion Chairman

P.S. The group photo will be taken following the Memorial Service and will cost \$20.00 per photo. You will be asked at the registration table if you would like a photo and if so you must pay for it at that time.

## CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS

### TEXAS AND THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER



Jack Blann  
President

Due to illness on the part of the only officer of the chapter and the death of President Jack Blann the regularly scheduled chapter meeting has been postponed. The rescheduled meeting will take place at Summers Mill Retreat and Conference Center near Belton, Texas on May 7th and 8th.

The group plans to have a Memorial Service for Jack Blann and a Tribute Service for John Miller, the founder of the chapter.

Herbert Stern, Secretary-Treasurer has assumed the duties of President until the next chapter meeting. If you have any questions contact Herb at [REDACTED]

### FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



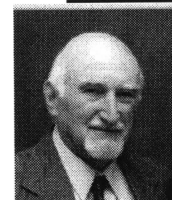
Emil De Donato

**A terrific deal:** Here's an opportunity for non-Florida Chapter members to join us during our April 20, 21 & 22, 2009 chapter reunion at a real bargain price. Where can you get 3 night's lodging, a pizza party, two dinners, complimentary continental breakfast every morning, drinks, snacks, food in our Hospitality Room and meet wonderful people for a total cost of \$270.00 (2 persons in a room).

The hotel is located on the Atlantic Ocean. Pack your bathing suit and enjoy the oceanfront swimming pool. April is a gorgeous time weather wise in Florida. Choose any of the other "Deals" if you are a single person in a room or live close by that you may want to join us for the activities only. How can you beat the price? Why are we offering these deals to members of the National organization including members of the Sons & Daughters Auxiliary and 9th Division veterans living in Florida but have not joined the Florida Chapter? Well maybe some of you will join our chapter. Those of you who live a good distance away can extend your stay and make this your vacation. Here's what you do. The Jan.-Feb.-Mar., 2009 Octofoil will probably arrive at your home a week or so before opening day. Time is of the essence. Either pick up your phone and call me, Emil De Donato at [REDACTED] or send me an e-mail: [REDACTED] to make arrangements or answer any questions. The Florida Chapter welcomes you to take advantage of this terrific deal.

Emil De Donato

### GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER



Marv Levy

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of Charlie LiBretto. Charlie expired on January 9, 2009 after being on a hospital respirator for three days due to pneumonia. He was hospitalized for irregularities in his diabetes and steroid treatment. He was 90 years old. Esta informed me a few days later.

I spoke to Charlie by phone at Christmas time, 2008. In the previous Octofoil (Oct.-Nov.-Dec.) I reported he and Esta had been on a Caribbean cruise. He said he hurt his leg during a fall aboard ship but was generally feeling okay.

Charlie always considered his health and physical condition paramount. During WWII he was a boxer with Matt Urban's boxing team, and was a runner for 60th, 2nd Bn. Commander Mike Kauffman during the Normandy invasion. In later years to keep his heart strong he maintained a vigorous exercise program.

He was a store of information and could cite many wartime anecdotes that would bring a laugh from those within earshot. Though he was ensconced in Texas during his last years, he was a true N.Y. favorite son. We will miss him. Our sincerest condolences to Esta and family.

### Winter Hiatus

Due to winter conditions during January and February (continued next column)

the N.Y. Chapter held no meetings. We had a Holiday Party on December 19, 2008 and a sudden snowstorm prevented many members and family from attending. Those who could make it were: Joe and Betty Charvat, Ed Harris, Joe Killen, yours truly and wife Barbara, and Joe and Sadie Maiale. On Friday, March 20, 2009 we met at our regular command post in the Franklin Square Library, Franklin Square, N.Y. Those attending were Anton Dietrich, Ed Harris, Joe Killen, Marv Levy, Tony Varone and Al Zenka.

### Health Watch

Here is the latest news on some N.Y. Chapter members and spouses since December. Prez Joe Charvat says his cancerous lung fluid has been drained and he is feeling better each day; Al and Genevieve Zenka are holding their own; Anton and Charlotte Dietrich are well; Jim and Joan Muldoon doing okay; Tony De Robertis is dealing with a mild stroke; Joe Killen is well; Al Lipton is recovering from 4 months of pneumonia. This scribe had Cataract surgery and wife Barbara and I are doing well; Ed Harris is okay; and Tony and Viola Varone are stable; daughter Michelle is awaiting VA dental surgery and son Richard's back condition is improving. The chapter wishes all ill members quick recovery and better health.

### Next Scheduled Meeting

Out next meeting will be on Friday, April 17, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Franklin Square Library. Remember, N.Y. Chapter dues are no longer received by the chapter treasurer. Dues should be sent directly to National Treasurer Bill Robey. However, N.Y. Chapter correspondence should still be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Joe Maiale, [REDACTED]

We would like to get news, good or bad from our N.Y. area members, wherever you are!

### An Apology: Wrong Phone No.

In case someone tried to telephone me and couldn't get through, my phone number in the last Octofoil was wrong. The correct number is below:

Mary Levy, Recording Secretary

### LADIES CORNER



Judy Goldsmith  
President  
Ladies Auxiliary

It is almost time for planning our 64th reunion (can you believe that?) Have you made your reservation yet? If not, please do so now as we welcome our family of friends. Another chapter will be added to our memories, once again.

Willy and I will be arriving at the Ramada in Bangor, Maine on July 22nd. In order to travel from the west coast, it just seems easier to get there 2 days before. As your President, I will try to check everything out to make sure all is set for the auxiliary members to enjoy their time there.

Jean Geary has been in contact with the coordinator at the hotel setting up the details for our luncheon meeting. This will take place on July 25th. The menu is for vegetable soup, chicken croissant sandwich, dessert and beverage. If you are a vegetarian, please advise Jean when you send in your payment. She can order for you. The total cost including tax and gratuities is \$17.00 per person. All monies must be received no later than July 11th. So send Jean your checks and do not forget to add your \$5.00 yearly dues along with the luncheon money. This will help Jean to balance the books. All checks payable to Ladies Auxiliary and mailed to Jean Geary, 1305 Livingston St., Allentown, PA 18109. Please remember to bring your Pollyanna gift to this meeting. The gift should have a value of \$5.00.

We were sad to hear of Jack Blann's passing. I do hope (continued on page 8)



## CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS

that Lavonne and daughters will continue their association with the 9th Infantry Division. No one knows how many more years we will get together so let's enjoy our extended family reunions as long as we can.

REMEMBER.....This is our election year and as our recently elected President's campaign motto was VOTE CHANGE let's keep up with the times.

Your officers will present a new slate of officers at our meeting on July 25th. We expect you to be willing to accept the positions.

There may not be time for another column before the reunion so I wish you all health, happiness, and maybe a little wealth too in the coming months.

See you in Bangor, Maine, July 24th. Come early so we can enjoy "catching up."

Sincerely,  
Judy Goldsmith, President  
Ladies Auxiliary 9th Infantry Division Association

### Sons and Daughters Auxiliary

Jim Merrill, Co-Chairman for the reunion has suggested some activities that we might consider while in Bangor. Please e-mail, call, or write a snail mail note to Jim expressing your desires or alternate ideas.

First, how about a cruise on a replica of a 19th Century Steam Ferry? Bangor Harbor Cruises offers a one hour harbor cruise aboard the steam ferry *The Patience*. Jim says that we can get the group rate of \$16.00 per person or we can charter the whole boat for \$1200.00. The normal prices according to their web site are \$20.00 per person and \$1500.00 for the private charter. This is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, July 26th at 1:00 p.m.

A second idea is to have representatives from Wreaths Across America come and give a presentation of their program. This story began over 15 years ago when Worcester Wreath Company (a for-profit commercial business from Harrington, Maine) began a tradition of placing wreaths on the headstones of our Nation's fallen heroes at Arlington National

Cemetery during the holidays.

A third activity that could happen anytime during our stay would be to go back to the airport and participate with the local community as "Troop Greeters." Planes arrive bringing military personnel home from Iraq and Afghanistan at all hours of the day or night and the local community has volunteer staff standing by to come to the airport and greet these young men and women home. We could also be "on call" to say thank you.

When you contact Jim about these activities let him know you would like to be "on call" as a troop greeter. His contact info is as follows:

Jim Merrill, 64th Reunion Co-Chairman



## WEBSITE UPDATE

By Torry Crass

The first thing I want to bring up is the newsletter and the recent change that has been made to use the website (www.octofoil.org) to distribute the electronic copies. While I understand that this may not be 'as easy' as simply clicking a button, I have and am continually taking steps to make it as straight forward as I can; hopefully to the point that everyone is happy with it. I would like to take a moment to explain the reasons why this is a good and important change.

**1) Saves Money/Resources:** This helps conserve money that it costs to print and provide the newsletter and those costs associated with it. As we all know, budgets are not what they used to be.

**2) E-mail Size Limits:** There are size limits in place on most internet providers for sending mail. I won't get into the reasons why this is but they are there for good reason, ask me specifically if you want to understand this. These size limits can, and often will, prevent you from receiving the newsletter by e-mail either at the sender's or receiver's Internet Service Provider (ISP). This new system solves that problem.

**3) Octofoil Library Project Web Access:** This, in my opinion, is one of the most substantial benefits of the new method. Eventually, once the Octofoil Library Project (OLP) documents and resources start becoming available, the intent is to have them on the web as well. This system will house those documents. By starting to use this system to get the newsletter now, you will be fully prepared to take complete advantage of the information in the OLP.

**4) Previous Issues Available:** By far one of the biggest and most direct advantages to this entire change is the fact that you no longer have the need to request back issues of the newsletters. That means that you can download whatever issues you might have missed. A true resource for anyone who is interested in looking at previous issues and just in case a copy has been lost here or there.

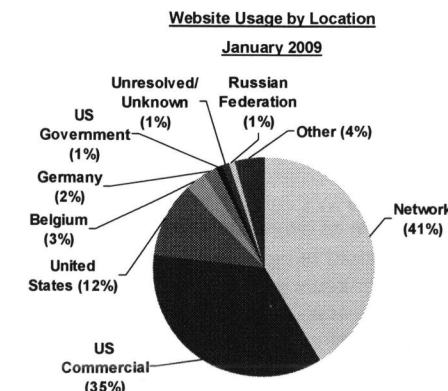
**5) Immediate Access:** Another benefit of this system is that you have immediate access to them; as soon as the newsletter is released, it is uploaded to the site for you to view. No waiting, no lost-in-the-mail problems, no need for forwarding addresses.

**6) Mobility:** You are at a friends or relatives house and you just can't recall what it was in the last issue. Maybe you want to show someone the magnificent newsletter that the association has and you forgot it at home or you want to give them reunion information. With this system the problem is solved, you can simply log in and view it right online.

Though we have had a few people have minor problems, we have had generally positive results using this system. If you have specific feedback on it, please feel free to give it to me directly. I am always open to ideas, help, comments and suggestions; my contact information in its entirety is as follows:

Torry Crass

I also wanted to share with you some interesting statistics about the website. Visits to the site have grown over the past year, averaging around 500 visits a month through September 2008 to over 1300 visits in January 2009 (an average of 42 a day). These visitors come to the site from literally all over the world; with some of the highest non-U.S. visits in January being Belgium, Germany and Russia:



(continued on page 17)

## MAIL CALL

### MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Paul Schumacher

In the Oct.-Nov.-Dec., 2008 issue of *The Octofoil* was an inquiry seeking information about a family member of:

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

In the photo of the American Cemetery at Normandy for the article, there can be seen two flags, one is the American flag, the other is the French flag. They were placed by Adolph's marker on Memorial Day, May 30, 2008.

The administrator of the American Cemetery asked me to give the flags to a family member of Adolph's. My request in *The Octofoil* for information produced positive results on February 8, 2009.

With very capable and timely help from Monty McDaniel in Bloomington, Indiana, the sister and other family members were located in Eureka, South Dakota. Consequently, the flags, several photos and some literature are now in her possession. She sent me a note expressing her gratitude for the material.

Mission accomplished with extraordinary success and satisfaction.

Mrs. Kate Nicklin

I was happy to learn of the Octofoil Library Project, and to know that my late husband, Dr. George L. Nicklin, will be represented there. His experience in the Ninth (K Company) was very important to George all his life.

I enclose a contribution to the further development of this project, in his memory.

Sincerely, Kate Nicklin

Pat J. Maisto

Enclosed is the most recent photo of me to include in the 90's club. May 5, 2009 will be 90. I was inducted on March 13, 1941 and in the 9th from the start to finish in Germany.

Not many of us left. A Company, 15th Engineer Battalion. Pat Maisto

Milton Haas

I was a member of Co. I, 60th Regt., Sep., Oct., Nov., Dec., '44, rather brief compared to many others. Would like to hear from others who may had been with me although my time was short. I do like to receive *The Octofoil*. Thank you.

Milton Haas, S/Sgt., 1st Platoon

## MAIL CALL

## MAIL CALL

Herbert Stern

Sabatino Agostinelli formerly of Latta Road, Rochester, N.Y. has been in St. John's Home, 150 Highland Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14620-3099, Room R235 for the past year. "Gus" as he is known in the 9th Infantry Division is 91 years old.

He had been in A Company, 9th Medical Battalion all through the war and was active in the association until 2000. Gus and his wife Ginny attended all reunions.

His friends may want to know his whereabouts and perhaps write him a note.

I am proud to call him one my close friends.  
Herb Stern, 9th Med. Bn. and Div. Hq.

Thomas Agostinelli

My name is Thomas Agostenelli, son of Sabatino Agostinelli. I have been reading the latest issue of *The Octofoil* before I bring it to dad. Both my parents are in the nursing home. My father just turned 91 and I noticed your paper has a 90's club, so I'm sending a picture of my father to be part of the 90's club.

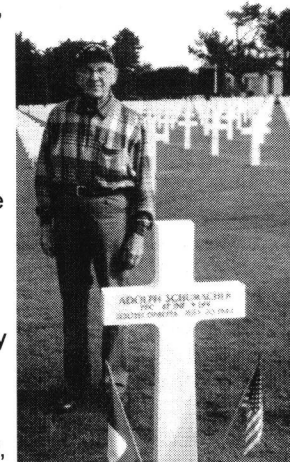
Also I am notifying you of a change of address so that we will continue receiving the paper. The new address is:

Sabatino Agostinelli  
94 Alderwood Ln.  
Rochester, NY 14615-1302

Thank you.

P.S. Some information that I have found: 1st Sgt., Bn Hq., 84th Armd. Med. Bn.

Also found this picture of a special jeep. Maybe you can elaborate about it in one of your future issues.



Back of photo: Invented by 9th Med. Bn., Ft. Bragg, N.C. 1942  
Idea originated 47th Inf.

(If anyone has further information regarding the jeep, its origination and subsequent use, please send to the editor for publication.)



## MAIL CALL

## MAIL CALL

## MAIL CALL

Steven D'Angeli

Hope you can read my writing-in regards to the Ninety's club. Jan. 2 of this year I became 91 years old. I was with the 9th Division right from the start, Feb. 1942 in Ft. Bragg, N.C. to the end of the war plus some months as we waited in Ingolstadt, Germany to hear "Pack-up and fall out, you're going home!" Landed in Casablanca, N. Africa in Dec. 1942, returned home in Sept. 1945. I started in 26th Field Artillery, C Battery. Being a musician (trumpet player) I was then sent to join the 9th Div. Band. Little did I know that in combat we now became litter bearers and wherever else we were wanted/needed. The ship I came home on carried the 14th Armored Div. A few month later I looked at my "Honorable Discharge" and really got mad as hell when I read "14th Armd. Div. Band." Now the back side had my entire 9th Inf. Div. history. By the way, I only received 7 campaign stars out of 8. That's because the band went into N. Africa in Dec. 1942. So it was on thru the rest of the N. African Campaign, Sicily, England, France, Belgium to the end in Germany (Ingolstadt).

Some years ago I wrote to the Records Dept. and asked them to correct my honorable discharge and send me a corrected form listing the Ninth Inf. Div. as the division I was in from Ft. Bragg, N.C., up to the end in Sept. 1945. The response was, "Sorry, we're not able to send a piece of paper that said I a member of the 9th Div." I tossed it in the rubbish and put my honorable discharge in the attic.

By the way, enclosed is a picture taken on my 91st birthday. Wonder how many of us made it in the division from Ft. Bragg right to the end in Germany?

My very best,  
Steve D'Angeli

Norman Beaulieu

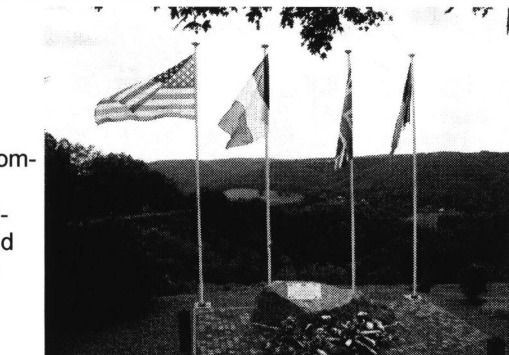
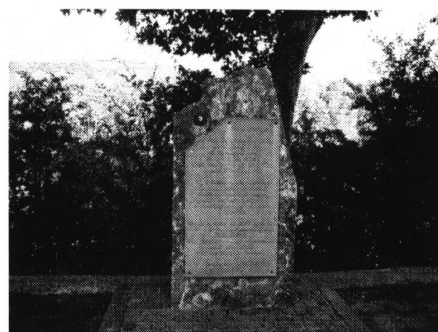
Christian Bosmans

I am an American who after working for years decided to stay here after the company sold out. As an ex-Navy man and member of the Disabled Veterans of America (DAV), I have become friends with Christian Bosmans who has an interest in military involvement here in Belgium. I have been assisting him as I can and in this case he would like to tell you there will be a ceremony regarding liberation of the Battle of Heer on the River Meuse in September 1944.

The 47th and 60th Infantry of the U.S. 9th Division fought for the liberation of Heer-Blaimont. These two villages are located on the French/Belgium border. Captain Matt Louis Urban was wounded in the throat and was sent to England for medical care and later returned to the U.S.A.

The last weekend in the month of August 2009 will be the 65th anniversary of the battle. The program of ceremony is still in the final planning stages. The enclosed photos are from the ceremony in 2008.

Signed, Norman Beaulieu, Navy man



(Letter and photos provided by  
Torry Crass)

## SEEKING INFORMATION

Henry G. "Red" Phillips

Looking for information regarding the whereabouts of Capt. Warren E. Walters, CO, H Co., 39th Inf. Regt. He was taken prisoner along with Col. Walter M. Oakes, CO, 2nd Bn., 39th Inf. Regt. during the Battle of El Guettar in North Africa. Together they were transported to German occupied Poland and jailed in Oflag 64, a prison camp for captured enemy officers. After recovery by the U.S. Army at war's end, both Walters and Oakes remained in the service until retirement, Walters in Georgia and Oakes in Texas.

Warren E. Walters last known address was 1382 Woodmount Dr., Columbus, Georgia. Unfortunately, he has vanished from his home in Columbus some months ago. Call me if you have info on his location.

Emil De Donato

Please add my name and photo to "The Ninety's Club." I was born 8/29/18 and raised in Hackensack, New Jersey. Drafted into the Army January 28, 1941. Served throughout the war in Hq. Co., 47th Inf., 9th Division. Discharged June 24, 1945. Ended up as the Regimental Message Center Chief.

Please return the photo. A stamped address envelope enclosed. Thanks.

Emil

(Photo has been returned as requested)

## OCTOFOIL LIBRARY PROJECT

The project team is happy to report that we have received \$4675 in monetary donations to date and several people have sent significant amounts of materials for scanning. Roger Gudenkauf reports that all old issues of *The Octofoil*, over 300 have been scanned along with several of the topographic combat maps and some of the personal memoirs that were delivered to him in December 2008. We are on track to have a prototype DVD available for viewing at the reunion in July. We again thank all those who generously gave financial support and materials support to make this project a reality. Please keep those donations coming.



Mary Miller, another daughter of owner Roger Gudenkauf, prepares to scan one of the old issues of *The Octofoil*. Photo by Terry Barnhart



Mary Miller with fellow colleagues in the background doing other scanning work. Photo by Terry Barnhart

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 Sauer

Association Historian:  
Henry G. "Red" Phillips

Assistant Coordinator:  
Terry Barnhart

**NOTE:** Donated materials will be returned upon request

## Materials Donors:

Mr. Domenick Fiore, Jr., Reading, Pennsylvania has contributed combat records for the 376th AAA-AW Battalion.  
Ms. Beth Wolff, Cheektowaga, New York has contributed some of her grandfather's (Henry Golabiecki) back issues of *The Octofoil*.  
Mr. John Clouser, Gladstone, Michigan has contributed his entire collection of back issues of *The Octofoil*.  
Mr. Claude Berghorn, Lakewood, Colorado has contributed 2 CD's of combat records and topographic maps for the 26th F.A. Battalion.  
Ms. Lisa Froug-Hirano, Honolulu, Hawaii has contributed out-of-print books with photos of the 9th in action and combat records.  
Dr. Gordon M. Binder, Millbrae, California has contributed his memoir *A Combat History of an Infantry Battalion Surgeon*.  
Mr. S. Bill Buemi, Lyndhurst, Ohio has contributed the book *The Long March* by Earl Wilkey, old issues of the *Fort Bragg Post* newspaper, and Fort Bragg bulletin board notices.  
Mr. Charles J. Hennesen, Grand Haven, Michigan has contributed his memoir.  
Ms. Only Rishel, Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania has contributed her pristine copy of the association's first newsletter, *Hitler's Nemesis-Old Reliabilities-Notorious Ninth* enclosed in the original envelope.  
Mr. Robert Lewis, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania has contributed the *Historical and Pictorial Review, Ninth Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1941*.  
Mr. Thomas Hatton, Saginaw, Michigan has pledged some old issues of *The Octofoil*.  
Mr. Charles Munger, Englewood, Florida has pledged some of his memoirs.  
Mr. Louis Prince, Cincinnati, Ohio has contributed his memoir "Memories of the 60th Field Artillery Battalion" and continued translation from the French of the book *1939-1945 in Hague-South* by André Hamel.  
Ms. Arlene Silver, Fort Myers, Florida has pledged some of her father's, Perry Kaye, memoirs.  
Ms. Patricia L. Grayem, Montrose, Colorado has contributed some of her father's, Orion C. Shockley, materials. 12 topographic maps (Tunisia and Italy), 10 newspaper articles, 20 photographs, combat records and brochures and photos from past reunions.  
Mr. Richard Kann, Shady Side, Maryland has pledged the *Chronicle of the 39th Infantry Regiment from Normandy to the Elbe, June 1943-May 1945*.  
Mr. John J. Toffey, Great Barrington, Massachusetts has contributed a copy of his book *Jack Toffey's War, A Son's Memoir*.  
Mr. Fred H. Schroeder, Slingerlands, New York has contributed a copy of *History of the Ninth Reconnaissance Troop-August 1940 to May 1945* by Cpl. Earl F. Cook.  
Mr. Michael Fraticelli, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has contributed 5 CD's of combat records, photos, newsreel footage and salvage reports of the USS Thomas Stone. Also a paper copy of one chapter from the book *No Banners, No Bugles* by Edward Ellsberg that tells the story of the USS Thomas Stone.  
Ms. Helen Losnes, Orange, Connecticut has contributed a 10 inch by 20 inch group photo of the Third Annual Convention.  
Mr. Jack R. Blann, Houston, Texas has contributed his book *A Private's Diary: The Battle of Germany As Seen Through the Eyes Of An 18 Year Old Infantry Rifleman*.  
Mr. Charles T. Illsley, Grand Lake, Colorado has contributed his memoir *A Go-Devil: Co. G, 2nd Bn., 60th Infantry Regiment* and a diary from 10 February 1945 to 8 September 1947.  
Mr. Carl W. Price, Hickory, North Carolina has contributed his personal memoir *I was a Go-Devil*.  
Ms. Mary Blann Cooper, Houston, Texas has contributed a CD of photos from 1974 through 2001 reunions. Some photos on the CD were provided by Ms. Ruth Victor, Dawsonville, Georgia.



Tom Hatton enjoys Volume 1, Issue 1 of *Hitler's Nemesis-Old Reliabilities-Notorious Ninth* precursor of *The Octofoil* at the 63rd reunion in Orlando. This original paper was provided by Mrs. Only Rishel.

Photo by Susan O'Konski



## The Literary Ninth

### Book Reviews

By Henry G. "Red" Phillips  
Association Historian

**Gillespie, David E.** (Deceased, 1st Lt., K Co., 47th Inf. Regt.) was editor of Forty-Seventh Infantry History, WWI, WWII, Vietnam that was printed in 1946 by Bruckman & Co., Munich, Germany. Then upgraded and reprinted in 1988 by Joseph H. Williams, 1900 Holyoaks Lake Rd., East Jacksonville, Florida. Contains military history of the regiment's World War II combat in Africa and Europe.

**Hill, Kenneth W.** (Deceased, Capt. CO, E Co., 39th Inf. Regt.). The Tale of a Civilian Soldier is a well-written, self-published, 68pp. manuscript of Hill's military career from being drafted in Dec. 1941 to his discharge 26 September 1945. He graduated from OCS at Ft. Benning, Georgia on 21 November 1942, and soon thereafter, was shipped to Morocco as a replacement officer. There he continued by rail to Bone, Tunisia where he was assigned to the 39th Inf. Regt. at Bizerte which had been captured three days previously by the 9th Div. Soon after that, the Division returned to a training area near Magenta, Algeria where it worked on problems experienced in combat. Later, the 39th was retracing its steps to Bizerte where, as a regimental combat team, it would be attached to the 3rd Inf. Div. for that unit's assault on Sicily at its port of Licata. Hill was now a rifle platoon leader of E Co., 2nd Bn. of the 39th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) which maintained its attachment to the 3rd Inf. Div. through that unit's sweep through western Sicily and the capture of Palermo. In this part of its Sicilian campaign, the 39th RCT was opposing mostly demoralized Italian soldiers. It was then shifted to central Sicily where it was attached to the 1st Inf. Div. for the major role in the wresting of the crag-top city of Troina from German control. Hill presents a disheartening picture of facing a superbly led and positioned enemy in terrain favoring defense. Then, when least expected, there came an invigorating leader who, toting an M1 rifle, leading from the front, screaming insults at the enemy and firing on any who rose to face he wrath. Col "Paddy" Flint knew what his men needed and he got them moving. It was a lesson that Lt. Hill never forgot. He survived the war and returned home to Brownfield, Texas where he died on 23 December 2006.

**Historical Division, War Dept., U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.** To Bizerte with the II Corps. This was one of the early publications of service (1943) intended for military personnel, especially the wounded who logically would like to know more of the battles in which they fell. Professionally written by military historians. The maps are especially useful. The 9th Inf. Div. under the command of Maj. Gen. Manton S. Eddy was for the first time entirely together, giving him full range for planning tactics and administration. II Corps committed the 9th to the Sicilian battle to pass through the town of Troina after its capture by the 1st Inf. Div., take over a sector astride Highway 120 east and capture the city of Randazzo. While the 39th Inf. Regt. rested after its exertions attached to the "Big Red One," the 47th Inf. Regt. would follow Highway 120, capturing the town of Cesaro enroute to Randazzo. The 60th RCT with irregular French forces attached, would make a wide envelopment to the north, advancing through the heavily forested and mountainous terrain at night and laying quietly during daylight in order to maintain the movement's secrecy. It was fully successful. The Germans abandoned Randazzo. British troops, coming around the north side of the volcano Mt. Etna, "pinched out" the 9th in their attack toward Messina. The 9th repaired to the north coast beaches near Cefalu where it soon had orders to sail to England in preparation for the invasion of France. Contact: US Government Printing Office (GPO), 732 N. Capital St., Washington, D.C. 20402

**Historical Division, War Dept., U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.**, 1947 Utah Beach to Cherbourg, 6 June-27 June 1944, another in the "American Forces in Action" series. This time the 9th is one of three credited with capturing the French port of Cherbourg, the others being the 4th and 79th Inf. Divs., all under the VII Corps commanded by Maj. Gen. J. Lawton Collins. The operation was of course an extension of the massive 6 June invasion of France, including the airborne assault of the Cotentin Peninsula by the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divs. with Army Air Corps and U.S. Navy support. Maj. Roland G. Ruppenthal authored this detailed pamphlet. Contact: U.S. Army Center of Military History, Washington, D.C.

**Howe, Dr. George F.** (Deceased, military historian, Office of the Chief of Military History, DA.), Northwest Africa: Seizing the Initiative in the West, 1957, is one of the multi-volume series U.S. Army in World War II produced by Dr. Howe in 1957. It covers the invasion of Morocco and Algeria in French North Africa on 8 November 1942, in which the 39th, 47th and 60th RCTs participated, and the subsequent campaign in Tunisia when American and British forces in Africa combined to destroy the Axis forces in North Africa. Mostly conducted by Allies elements in their first combat with those of the Axis powers, the battles were initially won by the latter but gradually turned to victory by the former. It is a confusing picture but masterfully covered by the author who by the time of his research had the advantage of captured and translated documents of the former enemy. Northwest Africa is an essential text for students seeking understanding of the meteoric rise in the reputation of the 9th Inf. Div. that in the view of General Dwight D. Eisenhower who opined after the war that the 9th was one of the two best of his command of the ETO. Contact: U.S. Army Chief of Military History, DA, Washington D.C.

**Levy, Marvin** (A Co., 60th Inf. Regt.) is the author of a "work in progress." His memoir, Take Cherbourg, begins with his joining the 9th Inf. Div. soon after its landing in Normandy. He was a Pvt., replacement soon to be assigned to A Co., 60th Inf. Regt. When those men headed for the 9th Div. were gathered in an orchard to hear a "pep-talk" by the division's commanding general, Manton S. Eddy. It was June 15th, 1944. The men were at the final leg of a long journey traveling from training camps in the U.S. to the badly battered French town of Reigneville. They were excited by the looming prospect of their first combat by uneasy hearing the occasional firing of nearby friendly artillery fire. Maj. Gen. Eddy had brought his veteran outfit ashore as the reserve of VII U.S. Corps, to be committed almost immediately because the corps' two green assault divisions had faltered against well-prepared German defenses. In its first days of fighting, the 9th had already suffered personnel losses while making spectacular gains toward Cherbourg. Eddy was determined to replace his losses at the first opportunity in order to maintain his unit's momentum. His orders were to relieve beleaguered paratroopers at the town of St. Sauveur le Vicomte, then to push on to the sea, cutting off northern end of the Cotentin Peninsula and isolating the port of Cherbourg.

The general's jeep swung into the orchard and the replacements jumped to "Attention!" at the command of their sergeant. They were put at ease and General Eddy stood up in the jeep and began to talk. Pvt. Levy recalls: "He was tall and fatherly looking. He spoke fatherly to us for a few minutes. I remember him saying 'You replacements are now soldiers with the 9th Infantry Division, combat veterans of Africa and Sicily...Some of you will be killed, some of you wounded, but most of you will return home after we win this war.'

"I'm sure we all hung on those last sobering words."  
(continued on page 13)

(Levy, Marvin...continued from page 12)

"He finished speaking to us, when, as an afterthought, he said, 'And another thing—if I catch any of you ducking from our own artillery, I'll shoot you myself.' There seemed to be a hint of smile on his face as his jeep turned to drive out of the orchard." Contact: Marvin Levy, 85 S. Centre Ave., Apt. A16, Rockville Centre, NY 11570-5761; Tel/Fax: 516-766-0869; E-mail: Lbarmar@aol.com

**Liebling, A.J.** (Deceased war correspondent) Mollie & Other War Pieces. Mollie was a nickname bestowed upon a former Brooklyn delinquent, Pvt. Karl C. Warner, who ended up in the 2nd Bn., 60th Inf. As sometimes orderly to its commander, Maj. Michael S. Kauffman (later Maj. Gen., USAR) who found him amusing but despaired of ever making a soldier of him. The name was given Warner because of his rebellious attitude toward everything military except the excitement of battle, and his street smart habit of addressing everyone as "Comrade." Mollie referred to Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister whose name was frequently in the news. The "Molotov cocktail," a name given an improvised anti-tank grenade, was in the same vein.

Besides having a long record of disciplinary transgressions, Warner's special battle talent came to the fore during the 2/60th's attachment to the 1st Armored Div. for and advance following a railroad track from Gafsa east through the Eastern Dorsal mountain pass near the town of Maknassy in southern Tunisia. The tankers had bypassed a battalion of Italian soldiers in position on high ground near the village of Sened and Maj. Kauffman was ordered to clean them out. The advantage of the Italian's higher ground stymied Kauffman's attack until one of his soldiers, Pvt. Karl Warner worked his way behind them and talked them into surrendering. Warner brought out nearly 600 frightened and disheveled Italian soldiers. It was a great *coup* and for some time, the soldier could do no wrong. When the 9th Div. moved to northern Tunisia and Free French forces augmented by Berber natives were attached, Warner was in his element mixing with the irregulars. He was at such when KIA attacking a German outpost in the Sedjenane Valley. Liebling came across the story on a visit to the 9th which was published in The New Yorker and later as a chapter in his book.

**MacDonald, Col. (USAR) Charles B.** (Deceased) MacDonald, a rifle company leader of the 2nd Inf. Div. during WWII who survived the write the best-selling memoir, Company Commander, which led to his career as a military historian with the Office of the Chief of Military History. He authored The Siegfried Line Campaign, another of the multi-volume series, History of the U.S. Army in World War II. It is superbly written and detailed in its coverage of actions involving the 9th Div. including those of the 47th Inf. Regt. in the Schevenhuetten area and those of the 39th and 60th Regts. In the Hürtgen Forest. As with other publication of what is now called the U.S. Army Military History Center, this book is sold at reasonable cost to the public at the Government Printing Office.

**Maness, Lewis E.** (Hq., 47th Inf. Regt.) From Quarterback to Brigadier General, self-published, 2005. After playing varsity football for Clemson College, South Carolina, Maness was commissioned from its ROTC as a Regular Army 2nd Lt., and assigned to the newly activated 47th Inf. Regt. of the 9th Inf. Div. at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He became one of the regiment's "Iron Men," lasting through World War II without a scratch, winning a Distinguished Service Cross and promotions to 1st Lt., Capt., Major and Lt. Col. in the 47th's 2nd Bn. After the war his assignments and promotions continued until his retirement as a Brigadier General.

Contact: Brig. Gen. Lewis E. Maness, USA, [REDACTED]

**Mittelman, Joseph B.** (Deceased; 1st Lt., Hq., 9th Inf. Div.) Hold Fast!: Historical Bits of Pathos, Lore, Heroism and Satire about the Veteran Ninth Infantry Division. German printed paperback of World War I and II unit history distributed to Division newcomers, edited by 9th Div. Historian's Office, 1947, Ingolstadt, Germany.

**Mittelman, Joseph B.** (Deceased; 1st Lt., Hq., 9th Inf. Div.) The Final Thrust: The Ninth Infantry Division in Germany, September 1944 to May 1945-a History. German printed paperback distributed to Division newcomers, edited by 9th Div. Historian's Office, 1947, Ingolstadt, Germany.

**Mittelman, Joseph B.** (Deceased; Capt., Hq., Second U.S. Army) Eight Stars to Victory. World War I and II unit history published for members by 9th Infantry Division Association, 1948, Washington, D.C. Eminently readable and accurate unit history of one of the two divisions rated as the best in the ETO by General Eisenhower. Mittelman and wife died in an airplane accident near Half Moon Bay, California, in 1966.

Contact: For information regarding author contact son, Kirk E. Mittelman, Mt. Nebo Training Assn., 869 S. 170 E., Provo, UT 84601; 801-372-0928 or e-mail: kmittelman@msn.com

Eight Stars to Victory has been reprinted by Battery Press, P.O. Box 186665, Nashville, TN 37219-1401; 615-293-1401 and is sold by them for \$69.95, or order by ISBN 0-89839-3191.

**Morgan, Elizabeth S.** Uncertain Seasons. Niece of 1st Lt. William H. Bradford, 1st Bn, 60th Inf. Regt., KIA in Normandy, 11 August 1944. Childhood memoir interspersed with extracts of uncle's letters to family members during his service. Good coverage of small southern town's home front. Published in 1994 by Univ. of Alabama Press.

Contact: Ms. Mary Morgan, [REDACTED]

**Nelson, Lindsey** (Deceased) Hello Everybody, I'm Lindsey Nelson was this Hall of Famer's opener as a sportscaster known best for his mellow Tennessee accent and his multitude of colorful sport jackets. ROTC at the Univ. of Tenn. brought him to Ft. Bragg and the 9th Inf. Div. upon graduation. Initially assigned as a rifle platoon leader he was getting tired of close order drill and hiking under the hot North Carolina summer sun when orders came down that the regiment must have a public relations officer. While nothing in his journalism education told him precisely what the Army expected of a "PR" officer, Nelson thought there might be a connection so he leapt at the opportunity to become one. Before long, he heard that the same job at division headquarters was open so he slid gracefully into it and began to learn the practice. When Manton S. Eddy assumed command of the 9th at Ft. Bragg, Nelson was not particularly expecting him to display greater interest in the publicity accorded the 9th than had been shown by the previous commander. Much later he learned that it might be part of the culture of most general officers to disdain personal publicity. But the 9th's tremendous victory in the Cotentin Peninsula put an end to that. Ernie Pyle, who had become friendly toward Nelson, as a favor wrote a column about the 9th and its commander which became a classic. Nelson was sorry to see Eddy leave to take a Corps command. "But when Ernie speaks, the generals listen," he acknowledged.

Contact: Ms. Nancy Wysznsz, [REDACTED]

The book was published 1985 by Birch Tree Books, a subsidiary of William Morrow & Co. of New York. Only 60 pages of more than 400 are devoted to Nelson's military life while the remainder cover his career of announcing sporting events. Out-of-print but available in used book stores.



## HISTORY ROAD



(Part Two of the translation from the French by Louis M. Prince. Part One was published in Vol. LXIII, No. 3, Jul.-Aug.-Sept., 2008 issue)

In any event is it more honorable to kill an unarmed prisoner than to kill a captured man who was wounded while resisting?

At the very time that this was happening near Dielette, Marshal Pétain was addressing the country from Bordeaux at noon on the 17th of June: "It is with great sadness that I tell you today

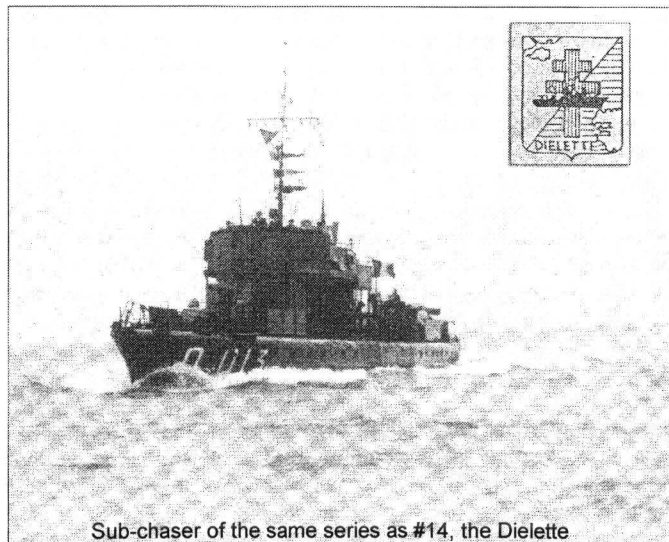
that we must cease fighting..." But what an inspiring message came on June 18th from General DeGaulle in his first speech over the B.B.C from London: "No matter what happens, the flame of French resistance must not to extinguish and will not be extinguished!"

It goes without saying however that few residents of the Cotentin had been able to hear those two messages during those especially upsetting days.

All the English soldiers had not been able to get on board at Cherbourg, and some were far from the port when the last boat set sail-like the truck load of Tommies coming from Briquebec arriving at the edge of Les Pieux at noon on June 18th. The town was full of Germans. Flagged down by a civilian, it made a quick u-turn. We don't know what happened to them.

But another group of about 12 English soldiers, some of whom were wounded, made it to Dielette, where they hid themselves in a small boat belonging to the local coal mine. (On June 18th the coal mine closed, putting 288 miners out of work.) At that point a refugee from Cherbourg, and a local man, Gilbert Védry, aided by his brother and some local fishermen, brought food and gasoline. They gave some navigation instructions before having to dash off to Aurigny (to avoid capture themselves). After just missing crashing into a jetty, they nearly ran aground on the rocks at the foot of Mount Saint-Gilles. Fortunately their lucky star was shining and they eventually got to a small island still in friendly hands.

It was right after this escapade that the Royal Navy named the submarine chaser #14 the "Dielette." It had been put in service on 1 June 1940 after trials at Cherbourg. (Other boats in the same series were named "Calais", "Boulogne", "Carantan", "Rennes"...). On the 18th of June the Dielette fled to England.



Sub-chaser of the same series as #14, the Dielette

(continued next column)

After participating in the Dieppe raid on August 19th, 1942, the Dielette continued its career with diverse operations under the flag of the Free French Naval Forces. On the night of 5-6 June 1944 it was part of the escort in the formidable armada headed toward the beaches of Normandy.

This escape of the boat with the 12 English soldiers is just local history, but it is important when one has personally known the man, Gilbert Védry, who dared to help them escape when German soldiers were in the immediate vicinity. Exactly two years later, after having founded Corps Franc Vengeance, Gilbert Védry, better known as Médéric, was one of the most active officials of Men of the Liberation which established important relations between Free France and Jean Moulin in occupied France. In October, 1942 he was in the unoccupied zone, Lyon, to consolidate actions of military character. In August of 1943 he was in London as a permanent member of the delegation from Resistance cells, and in November, 1943 he took a seat at the temporary consulting Assembly in Algiers. Finally, he returned to France: A torpedo boat landed him on the beach at Kersoulu, Finistère the night of 17-18 March 1944, but he got arrested in Paris on the 21st by French police. He had no doubt been betrayed, but it was never known just how.

Médéric could not conceal his identity nor the importance of his mission, due to the papers which he had with him. He decided to go for broke, double or nothing. After all, in March 1944 one would think that a Parisian police commissioner, even if he is not a patriot, would not have much doubt about how the war was going to end.

"You see who I am," said Médéric, "I am only doing my duty as a Frenchman. I hope you know yours as well."

But Commissioner Dufour turned his prisoner over to the dreaded David, chief of the Special Anti-terrorist Brigade, which worked for the Gestapo. Médéric had nothing to say to him except: "You are going to see that a Frenchman knows how to die!" And Médéric took his poison. He collapsed. One could hear him say feebly: "France...France..." Several hours later he died in their custody. (from a speech given on March 20th, 1945 by Maurice Schumann).

### MORT D'UN HÉROS

#### MÉDÉRIC

Délégué de la Résistance à l'Assemblée consultative

Est tombé au cours d'une mission accomplie en France

Médéric était notre ami et si l'effort que nous avions pour lui était de date récente, elle était de celle que ni le temps, ni l'absence, ni le malheur ne peuvent altérer; elle possédait sa vigueur non seulement dans la sympathie qu'il inspirait par sa bonhomie, sa franchise et sa loyauté, mais dans l'estime que méritait son courage souriant et sans fissure.

C'était un ouvrier qui, à force de travail et d'effort, avait pu devenir lui-même un industriel, sans jamais oublier ceux qui, à l'origine, furent ses compagnons. Il connaissait leur vie, il connaissait leurs aspirations et il savait l'importance des réformes sociales que commandait la simple justice. Il savait aussi que les meilleurs des patriotes se recrutent parmi eux. N'est-il pas lui-même un exemple vivant et un reproche pour ceux qui, par leur lâcheté, leur égoïsme ou leur action sourde, les ont également trahis.

C'est l'appel du général de Gaulle, il a répondu et son instinct profond de Français lui dicta immédiatement la conduite à tenir. Il est mort, avec une admirable fermeté, dans ce que les laqueurs de Vichy appelaient « la dissidence », c'est-à-dire dans le combat contre l'ennemi.



blait que rien ne pût l'atteindre. Et pourtant il est mort pour la France, parce qu'il était de ceux qui pensent que ce n'est rien lui donner que de ne pas se donner soi-même.

Il a travaillé obscurément pour la victoire. Il n'en verra pas le jour, mais il a emporté avec lui le sentiment de sa certitude. Nul plus que lui ne méritait la Croix de la Libération, qui lui a été accordée avec une situation qui souligne le courage exemplaire de ce pur et noble patriote.

« Fraternité » se recueille avec émotion devant la mémoire de Médéric et s'incline respectueusement devant la douleur de son étroite épouse et de ses amis.

(continued on page 15)

## HISTORY ROAD

### Life Under Occupation

The German units that came on June 18 and 19 were only the advanced force that could not control the country except by taking over some key positions. It took a few days for the non motorized troops to be shipped by rail. The German support troops advanced at a completely different speed with their long four wheel horse-drawn covered wagons.

The first action that the German occupation forces took was to requisition all weapons held by civilians: shotguns, rifles, hand guns...these guns were to be stored at the town halls. As many gun owners would not turn over their weapons, some were hidden waiting for better days, and many were buried underground.

In the evening, there was total curfew, all lights were concealed, it was forbidden to go out after 8 p.m., only doctors could use their cars but could not turn on their lights. Even though this was inconvenient even for those who knew the roads, drivers did not have great difficulty because very few were traveling.

### Daily Life...

Grosville...has known the emotions which an invasion brought, the sad sight of French authorities ordering the evacuation of citizens of Cherbourg, the sight of French sailors and soldiers fleeing and throwing away their arms and their uniforms to avoid being caught and taken prisoners. On July 24, the German force which took over the township counted 50 men and a hundred horses...

Since July 23, our country has been occupied. In Treuville, the Kommandantur counted hundred twenty men (officers and soldiers) and about a hundred-eighty horses: all meadows and haylofts were ransacked. (Horses are put in the best pastures without warning the property owners, under the watchful eyes of the armed guards.)

What will become of us this winter? We already have a reduced amount of wood and coal, how can we keep all these people warm?

The dining facility of the presbytery served as the mess hall for the officers and non-commissioned officers; the kitchen is at their service. The guest room off the kitchen is used as a first-aid station and the garden as a promenade area for the troops.

When will be liberated and who will liberate us?

As can be seen, the priest of Treauville, a former war combatant during the war 1914-1918 was bitter about his "tenants" forced upon him. On September 28, he wrote: "To take me away from the German control, Monsignor offered me a position in Vercey-Villiers. This was not a promotion but a position in a known and unoccupied territory. (The priest was born in Montanel, in the same county...)

By the end of October 1940, Flamanville had been accommodating four hundred and fifty men and one hundred thirty horses and lot of rolling stock, for four months without interruption.

The mayor recounted this story to his Civil Authority Supervisor..."Upon arrival to his assigned billet in one of my properties, the German officer who was in charge of forty men asked me immediately how he could procure some butter, outside of the official market, based on the need of one pound per man per week."

A unit having put his horses to pasture in Siouville left without paying under the pretext that they will have left behind radio sets that they had purchased but could not take with them. In the end they took everything with them anyway. The French Civil Administration never answered the request for any compensation.

Very quickly, the many soldiers stationed in Les Pieux (continued next column)

occupied empty buildings, schools, meeting halls, houses abandoned by the villagers who had fled the enemy and especially the beach front villas deserted because of the war. All these dwellings were looted, ransacked, converted to the liking of the soldiers who occupied them for four years. Of course, furniture were transferred from villa to villa, the town hall was converted into a dormitory and a shoe repair shop, leaving only one room for the mayor and his secretary.

In September 1940, an order regarding the limitation on the sale and consumption of beef and pork was published, butchers' shops were forced to close for three consecutive days: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; deli shops were to be closed on Thursdays and Fridays. Market days were rescheduled from Friday to Saturday.

Slowly, shortages become routine and widespread, and daily life became full of inconveniences ranging in degrees of severity.

Before the war, bakers sold directly yeast to farmers, allowing them to bake their own bread but since the shortage, the unionized bakers refused to deliver yeast to farmers.

The town of Les Pieux lacked the glue used to post numerous announcements, and since the flour-based glue cannot be used easily due to the poor quality of the flour, the mayor had to solicit from the French Administration an allocation of glue for the towns.

In the fall of 1941, a German unit stationed in Surtainville asked the town for staff to clean up their quarters. After refusing the first time around, the acting mayor sent them three women unfit to do the job, one obviously dirty, the other being 71 years old. The German unit challenged the explanation given that the town did not have better labor.

The commune in Rozel did not have authorization to circulate. There were no telephones, no baker, and in case of siege, the town would be completely isolated. The mayor requested an authorization to circulate from the French Civil Authority. (Telephone communications were severed in June 1940. On September 11, 1942, Surtainville was still without telephone. On the contrary in Les Pieux service had been restored.)

The mayor of Surtainville petitioned the French Civil Authority for a ranger: "How can we get a village ranger because no one here wants to do the job?"

The mayor of Briquebosq thought that the town of Les Pieux had already paid much more in cattle during the requisition than the neighboring town of Briquebec.

In our rural area, children from our schools were sometimes forced to rid potato fields of the Colorado beetles that destroyed everything in their passage.

The orders posted in the town halls are formal..."we have to get rid of the Colorado beetles by all means..."

But was it known among the higher-ups that the German soldiers were nick-named "Colorado Beetles?" Was this because, from the first day of their occupation, thanks to their strong currency, the soldiers began emptying our shops of all their merchandise to ship them to their families? Those who had the privilege of obtaining a furlough doubled their efforts to load up on butter, poultry, meats, and fabrics in their knap-sacks.

In any case even the German police would intervene to enforce the regulations. This was how the farmer from La Fosse in Les Pieux, served eight days in prison for negligence in the care of his potato field.

In December of 1942, a German military grave was found completely abandoned in the Treauville cemetery. The French Civil Administration stipulated to the mayor that the burial site must be maintained by the town, decorated with seasonal plants and flowers.

The Senior Priest of Les Pieux has noted the following (continued on page 16)



## HISTORY ROAD

remarkable facts: "after the panic of the first few days, we have grown accustomed to the occupation. During the winter of 1940-1941, there were a great number of Germans in the village of Bourg an in Sciottot, (there were 12 of them that were billeted in the presbytery). People remain dignified except a few women and girls who made themselves the subject of gossip.

The procurement of some food stuff became difficult but people did not suffer from starvation in the countryside.

The faithful hoped tenaciously for a victorious and imminent liberation. The parish had forty-two of its children detained in the German camps.

In the evening, the curfew did not allow us to about freely. Only in the beginning of 1942, did we hear the sound of bells again.

Abuses in the black market were noticed, prices were exorbitant.

This deep hope for a victorious and imminent liberation recorded by the priest became more and more obvious with the appearance of graffiti on walls or roads. But watch out for those who were caught tracing the "V" for Victory and the Lorraine Crosses, emblem for the Free French Fighters.

From time to time, such chalk symbols were drawn on the roads crisscrossing the town of Les Pieux. These drawings made Germans furious and they arrested the young people that passed by and harassed them like young recruits by making them erase the drawings with toothbrushes.

"Are we going back to the 'Terror of 1793?'"

Unfortunately yes, but the problem was no longer to supply the French Republic's armies.

Non-ferrous metals taken from the church of Surtainville in 1942: two chandeliers, two candelabras, two candle holders and about twenty garlands, these items will serve the greatest glory to Nazi Germany.

The occupying forces became more and more demanding. The draftees of 1942 left in 1943 to go work for the Great Reich "for France!!!" (as said Laval, Henriot and the likes).

Of course, since the requisition of non-ferrous metals applied to everyone, the whole population was invited to take to the town halls all objects in copper, brass, tin. Generally speaking, as in Rozel, people only brought objects in poor shape and in very limited quantities.

And, miraculously, copper objects, the big frying pans so often used to cook buckwheat or marmalades and the round milk containers were all taken out of the dressers and put away in attics, covered under a thick layer of hay, hidden from greedy looks.

1943: The occupying forces who had limited themselves to live in empty structures, now demanded that several families evacuate their houses, among them the immediate neighbors of the presbytery. The priest of Les Pieux wrote, why spare the Priest of Pieux? Probably because they have installed a company command post in the presbytery since August. (Schools in different villages are being used since the beginning of the school year, so classes had to be moved to other buildings in the small town). This evacuation affected (at the end of January 1944) other families in town, notably the refugees from Chrebourg, who found themselves fleeing once again.

Was the German Army lacking means of transportation? During the first days of 1943, there was a requisition for bicycles. Soon after, the mayor of Rozel was advised that out of 78 bicycles registered in his town, only nine will be exempted from the requisition. He had to prepare immediately the order of requisition according to an administrative form provided to him.

### Segregation and racism

Due to the fighting, thirty-nine miners from Redange, (continued next column)

Volmenange-les Mines and Valmont in Moselle had been evacuated with their families to Flamanville, a total of sixty-six persons.

These Italians, Poles, Germans, Frenchmen, Russians, Yugoslaves and refugees from Luxembourg demanded to be repatriated to their homelands; but on July 23, 1940, all repatriations were halted.

At the beginning of December 1940, Polish families from Flamanville were evacuated to the Mayenne and Vendee, by order to the German authorities. (Was the purpose of the order to send them far from England where a Polish government in exile had been formed in an effort to reconstitute a national army that was later used on different fronts?). Those expelled only had a few hours to leave and were only allowed to take thirty kilos of belongings with them. What became of them? Were they able to avoid the ordeal looming ahead?

In April 1942, another Belgian family from Surtainville was expelled to Mayenne.

During these years, foreigners and Jews were subjected to daily control, and the townships had to report weekly to the French Civil Authority the whereabouts of these people.

On June 11, 1942, a temporary Administrator was nominated to watch over Mr. Henri Grimpel residing in Villennes-sur-Seine, an owner of a farm in Benoistville...he is Jewish...therefore relieved of all his assets which had to be auctioned.

PRÉFECTURE DE LA MANCHE — 4<sup>e</sup> DIVISION — 2<sup>e</sup> BUREAU

POLICE GÉNÉRALE

# Vente de Biens

Appartenant à un Israélite

Situés Communes de

## Benoistville et Sotteville

PROPRIÉTAIRE : M. GRIMPEL, Henri, demeurant Villa Tanit, à Villennes-sur-Seine.

ADMINISTRATEUR PROVISOIRE : M. JEAN, Greffier de Paix aux Pieux.

Le 12 MARS 1943, à 14 heures, il sera procédé à la PRÉFECTURE de la MANCHE, à la vente par soumission sous pli cacheté, des biens ci-dessous désignés :

Situation des biens	Désignation des biens	Contenance	Montant à prix	Date d'expiration des délais pour la soumission
Communes de BENOISTVILLE (hameau Turbert) et par extension commune de SOTTEVILLE	TERRE ET FERME	11 h. 41 a. 80 c.	460.000 frs	23 Février 1943

CONDICTIONS DE VENTE : — Le prix de vente sera payé comptant en deux fois : l'acompte de 100 francs sera versé au greffe de la préfecture le 23 février 1943, le solde de 360.000 francs sera versé le 23 mars 1943. Les enchères seront reçues jusqu'au 23 février 1943, à 14 heures. Les enchères seront reçues jusqu'au 23 février 1943, à 14 heures. Les enchères seront reçues jusqu'au 23 février 1943, à 14 heures.

SAINT LO — IMPRIMERIE BARRAUD — 1943

### SALE OF POSSESSIONS BELONGING TO AN ISRAELITE

Translator's Note:

The wording seems strange because the word Israelite is the preferred term for a Jewish person in France. The word Juif (Jew) is not considered very polite and is somewhat disparaging. One would think, under the circumstances of the Occupation, that the German collaborators would not use the polite word when appropriating and auctioning off the Jewish mans possessions (including his farm).

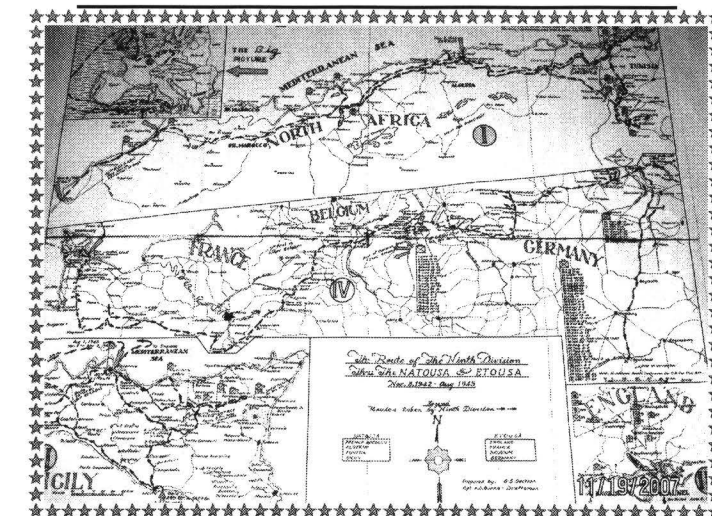
### TO BE CONTINUED (when more translation is available)

### (Website Update...continued from page 8)

In addition to this general activity increase, we have also received more actual registrations, information requests and, it seems, significantly more interest over the past few months. People browsing the internet are certainly looking for information on the 9th Infantry Division and though I don't have the best statistics on what searches actually visited the site after searching for information, we were searched for over 170 times using various phrases but most commonly variations of -9th Infantry Division, 9th Division and Octofoil. On average, the website has been blocking 7-12 break-in attempts daily and so far, has caught a whopping 2,900 attempts (for which I get an e-mail for every time so I can verify it). Spammers are always a real problem and not just for e-mail anymore.

Lastly, I thought I'd provide a quick update on what is being worked on. I am currently working on finding ways to improve and provide better, easier instructions on how to use the document management system where the newsletters are stored. By the time of this release I hope to have a video instruction available on how to use the new system. I expect that the Octofoil Library Project team and I will be working together to find the best way to put the digitized information into the document management system. I'm also, as time permits, hoping to continue working on a guestbook/roll call system for the website which will provide the ability for people to leave notes and possibly contact information on the website to get in touch with old friends.

Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to assist you and if you have information that should be posted to the site, I'll be more than happy to see that it gets where it needs to be.



Generously provided by Preston W. Stillings, 9th MP Platoon

### 9th Infantry Division Route Of March Map thru the NATOUSA and ETOUSA November 8, 1942—August 1945

28 1/2 in. x 22 1/2 in.

Mailed in tube to prevent folding  
**\$15.00**

Check or money order payable to:  
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

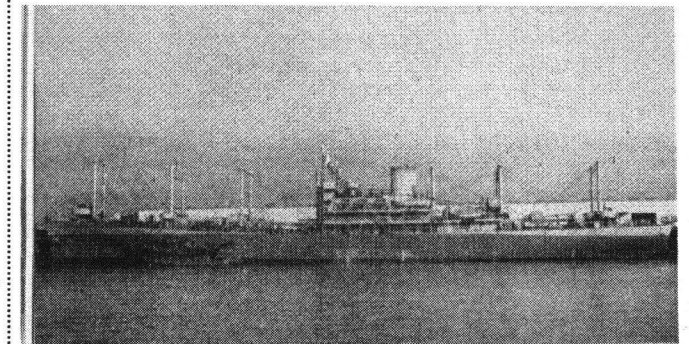
Send to: William Robey  
1005 Elkhart St.  
Oxon Hill, MD 20745-2118  
Please allow 2 weeks for delivery after receipt of your order  
Price increase due to postage rate increases

### TROOPSHIP INFORMATION

Claude Berghorn has an out-of-print book that contains one page summaries of over 300 U.S. troopships plus a listing of their voyages. Claude will research and copy the page of the ship that you were on if you can provide him the name of the ship. The photo below is an example of the troopship "Hawaiian Shipper" that carried the 26th Field Artillery Battalion from Sicily to Scotland, November 8-26, 1943. Claude is the son of Emery W. "Hank" Berghorn, Headquarters Battery, 26th Field Artillery Battalion.

His contact info is as follows:

Claude Berghorn  
12672 West Dakota Dr.  
Lakewood, CO 80228-3511  
303-988-7382  
E-Mail: claude\_berghorn\_303@comcast.net



### HAWAIIAN SHIPPER

Length, overall 490' 8" Gross tons 7,775 Propulsion Turbine  
Beam 69' 6" Speed (knots) 16 1/2 Passengers 1,906  
Draft 28' 7" Radius (miles) 17,000 Cargo (cu. ft.) 241,807  
Built in 1941 by Federal Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., Kearny, N. J.  
Former Names: HAWAIIAN SHIPPER, EMPIRE FULMAR  
Operated during World War II by Matson Navigation Co. and British Ministry of War Transport.

THE HAWAIIAN SHIPPER had a very interesting career in World War II. She was a special C3 type vessel that carried cargo nearly two years before becoming a troopship—part time as the British-operated EMPIRE FULMAR. The original name was restored under U. S. control. Her last pre-conversion trip as a freighter started at New York in July 1942 and took her to Recife, Capetown, Aden, Suez, back to Aden, Kilindini (Kenya), Beira (Mozambique), again to Capetown, and back to New York. Following conversion to a troopship in early February 1943, the HAWAIIAN SHIPPER made one trip each to Casablanca, Oran, and Bermuda from New York. In May and June she visited Newfoundland and Iceland. A trip was next made to the Clyde, another to Oran, and then one to Belfast, the Clyde and Palermo.

Following return to New York from the last of these voyages, the ship was assigned to the Pacific.

After stopping at New Orleans in late December 1943, the vessel transited the Panama Canal, visited Bora Bora Island, Noumea and Espiritu Santo, and returned to San Francisco on 27 February 1944. From there the ship made five voyages to the Western and Southwestern Pacific, with calls at Milne Bay, Finschhafen, Langemak, Eniwetok, Guam, Majuro, Hollandia, Leyte or Saipan. Return to San Francisco from the final voyage of the series was in May 1945.

In June the HAWAIIAN SHIPPER transited the Panama Canal for a direct run to Le Havre. Reaching New York in July, she went to Naples and Gibraltar to redeploy troops directly to Lingayen, P. I. At Balboa, C. Z., on 16 August 1945, however, she was diverted to New York, being one of the few vessels so handled. From New York in September she went to Marseilles and in October left New York for Port Said and Karachi. On 1 December 1945 the HAWAIIAN SHIPPER sailed via the Suez Canal to Karachi, Colombo and Singapore. She continued eastward to Seattle, arriving on 21 January 1946 and was there released from troop service. On 11 April 1946 she was transferred to the WSA Reserve Fleet at Olympia, Washington.



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 May 1, 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  
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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.

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August 2008-2009

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Henry G. "Red" Phillips, Association Historian

MATT URBAN MEMORIAL DEDICATION

The American Legion, Post 40 (Matt Urban Post) of Monroe, Michigan will be holding a dedication ceremony for the Matt Urban Memorial on May 3, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Mrs. Matt Urban will be the honored guest. A dinner dance will follow the dedication at the Matt Urban Post 40 of the American Legion.

Matt Urban was the most decorated member of the 9th Infantry Division. He resided in Monroe, Michigan for almost 20 years.

An invitation to attend this wonderful event has been extended. Please e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ for further specific details about the event or call Bill Zornow on his cell phone at \_\_\_\_\_

The Memorial dedication will be at:

Veteran Park  
N. Custer Rd.  
Monroe, Michigan

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The Ninth Infantry Division Association



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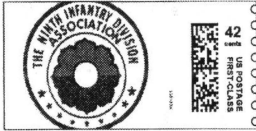
Association Historian  
Henry G. "Red" Phillips

## 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 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**

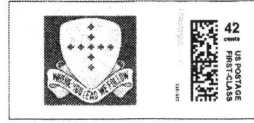
Send your order to: William G. Robey, [REDACTED] at the prompt. (Stamps not shown actual size)



The Ninth Infantry Division Association



60th Infantry Regiment



9th Medical Battalion



34th Field Artillery Battalion



39th Infantry Regiment



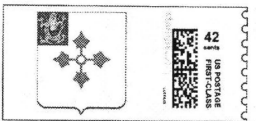
15th Engineer Combat Battalion



9th Military Police Platoon



84th Field Artillery Battalion



47th Infantry Regiment



9th Signal Company



26th Field Artillery Battalion

### Remember

First class postage increases to 44 cents on May 11, 2009. A sheet with that postage will cost \$16.00. Please plan accordingly when you order.



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