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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, April/May/June 2009

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, April/May/June 2009" (2009). *The Octofoil*. 375.
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The Octofoil

Apr.-May-Jun.
2009

Volume LXIV, No. 2

64th ANNUAL REUNION PROGRAM

Ramada Bangor
Bangor, Maine
July 24, 25, 26. 2009

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 Spectacular Events Dinner Theatre: 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: Penobscot Room
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.



President
Henry S. "Hank"
Geary

President's Message

As my term of office comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your president for this great organization. It was my privilege to do so.

The committee and I are hoping to see a great turnout for this 64th reunion. They have been working hard to get things ready for you. All should be signed up by now and ready to travel to Bangor, Maine to once again meet with old buddies. Maybe a few new ones that haven't been able to attend reunions for awhile. Come and join in the festivities prepared for you and meet with us "Old Reliables."

Congratulations to Mr. Joseph Maiale who will be serving out the unexpired term of Mr. Jack Blann and Mr. Winston Campbell who will be serving out the term of Mr. Charles LiBretto. Thank you both for stepping forward and filling these positions

To those attending the reunion have a safe trip. For those unable to come, our thoughts will be with you and yours.

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

www.octofoil.org

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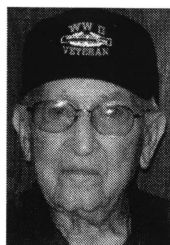
OUR MISSION

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.

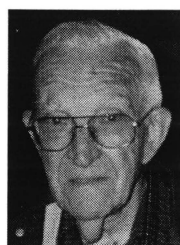
THE NINETY'S CLUB

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.

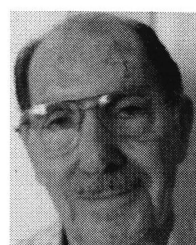
New Ninety's Club Members



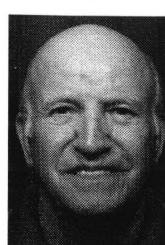
Wyatt H. Colclasure (96)
Salem, Ill.



Anton J. Dietrich (91)
Richmond Hill, N.Y.



Gino Felicelli (90)
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.



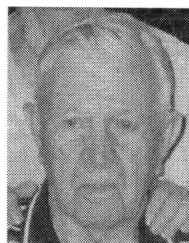
Robert Griffith (92)
Des Plaines, Ill.



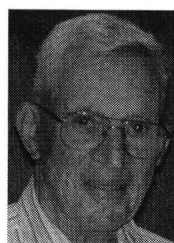
Joseph A. Gurli (90)
Chelsea, Mass.



James F. Hart Jr. (93)
Wilmington, Del.



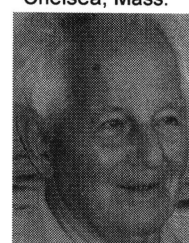
Alton E. Le Duc (90)
West Branch, Mich.



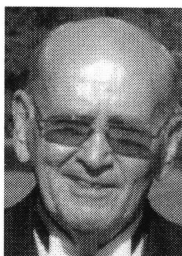
Dwight Merrill (90)
Dover Foxcroft, Maine



Louis M. Prince (90)
Cincinnati, Ohio



Joseph Rappazini (91)
Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.



Clyde E. Shull (90)
Upper Sandusky, Ohio



Col. John Wessmiller (90)
Chatham, Mass.

Club Members Photos Previously Published

Sabatino Agostinelli (90), Rochester, N.Y.
Roger E. Alsgaard (93), Fort Wayne, Ind.
Gordon M. Binder, MD (90), Millbrae, Calif.
John Celler (90), Stamford, Conn.
Anthony Cheney (90), Hunter, Kans.
Steven D'Angeli (91), Medford, Mass.
Emil J. DeDonato (90), Dunnellon, Fla.
Albert T. Farese (93), Bernardville, N.J.
Jakie Grgurich (91), Novinger, Mo.
Dr. Martin Gross (91), Coconut Creek, Fla.
Edward G. Janosik (91), Springfield, Mo.
Joseph B. Kash (90), Glenside, Pa.
Emil Langer (90), Hollywood, Fla.
James E. Leopold (90), Chicago, Ill.
Pat J. Maisto (90), Shallotte, N.C.
Dominic J. Martello (92), Metairie, La.
Frank Meanor (91), West Boylston, Mass.
William J. Nesta (90), Granada Hills, Calif.
Walter Victor (91), Dawsonville, Ga.
Alphonse J. Zenka (90), Brooklyn, N.Y.
Pat J. Zona (90), East Sandwich, Mass.

Missing Photos

Carroll B. DeVoid (93), Williston, Vt.
Andrew Kopack (90), Nazareth, Pa.
Albert Lipton (90), Flushing, N.Y.
Preston W. Stillings (94), Fairhope, Ala.
Carl Price (90), Hickory, N.C.
Charles Scheffel (90), San Antonio, Tex.
Harold Schramn (90), New Milford, N.J.
George A. Pedrick (94), North East, Md.

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

Secretary-Treasurer Report

Well, here we go again. My report this time will be fairly short, mostly because the full report in much more detail will be given to the Board of Governors when we meet in Bangor.

One of the items for the Board to discuss is the use of the money in our Memorial Fund. There have been several suggestions, and one that seems most appropriate is to have a memorial plaque put in the new Hürtgen Forest Museum. I am going to contact the director of that museum in the next few days and see what his reaction to the suggestion is, and his comments on how and what we should try to do. Another suggestion has been made before, and we are still trying to follow up on the idea of putting a memorial plaque at the Remagen Bridge Museum in Germany along with the other plaques from units that participated in the capture and exploited the Rhine River crossing. If any of the membership has any other suggestions, please contact me and I will bring them up at the Board meeting also.

This issue of *The Octofoil* is getting to you just before the reunion in Bangor, and the next one will be issued during the first couple of weeks in October. Last year we experimented with putting that issue out in color. It was more expensive than the regular issues and we were able to cover the extra expense due to the generosity of many of our members. If you think we should do this again, then we need the help of our members to offset the extra cost. It costs about \$2,000 extra to put it in color. Our regular budget covers the normal issue and does not leave much extra to do a color issue. So, if you are interested in seeing the October issue of *The Octofoil* in color, please help with your donations. Any checks that you send should specify "for *The Octofoil*" and be made payable to "The Ninth Infantry Division Association."

The editor has recently sent me a list of the actual veteran members in our association. Believe it or not, we have 472 members at this time. We also have a very exclusive club called "The Ninety's Club" that now has 41 members. The oldest is Wyatt Colclasure of Illinois who is 96 years young.

In addition to the above number of members, our list includes over 200 more who have let their dues lapse, or have moved and given us no forwarding address. Some of them may have died and their families did not notify us. Plus there may be other reasons as well. These names have been removed from our mailing list and we are at a loss as to how to contact them. Postage rates being what they are, it would be a little expensive to mail inquiries only to have the post office return them to us.

Anyway, this will give you an idea of the many small problems that we see develop every now and then.

A full financial report will be given to the Board of Governors when meeting in Bangor, but as of now the association is solvent, we have all bills paid to date, and there is still money in the bank. The down turn in the economy has caused us to lose some money in our investment program, but it looks like in the last three months the CGM fund that we are invested in is making a comeback, and our stock is increasing in value a little bit at a time, and we hope the stock increase continues until we have regained our losses.

Bill Robey, Secretary-Treasurer

64th Reunion Update

It seems that a lot more of our members are coming to Maine than we thought would come to such an unusual place for our reunion. Bangor, Maine is not the easiest place in the country to fly into, but our members seem to be making their reservations in many different ways. Several of our members told me that it is cheaper to fly on Tuesday or Wednesday than it is to fly on Thursday or Friday. One member said that he saved so much that it more than paid for the extra days he would have to pay for in Bangor.

As of this update, June 17, we have 64 rooms reserved, and a total of 128 people. We are slightly below the total number
(continued next column)

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

Madeline W. Burr in memory of J. W. Baswell

Barbara Saum in memory of her husband Hal C. Saum

Nancy Speers Keenholts in memory of her father Ralton M. Speers

Gordon M. Anderson in memory of Illinois Chapter and 9th Recon Troop who have answered roll call

Karen Water in memory of her father Norman Clifford Johnson

Claude Berghorn in memory of his father Emery W. (Hank) Berghorn

Lawrence T. Faulkner in memory of 1st Lt. John Sabato Sr. and T/Sgt. Charlie Horvatic

Paul Schumacher in grateful memory of J. W. Baswell

Ennio L. Mariotti in memory of deceased and living members of Co. I, 39th Regt. from 10/12/44 to 4/01/46

Louis M. Prince in memory of all our comrades who are no longer with us

in Orlando. There were quite a few people in Florida that lived near enough to Orlando to be able to drive in to our various events and not stay in the hotel, which raised the total number of people but not the number of rooms. We had 61 rooms and 152 people in Orlando. Barring last minute changes, this seems to be more or less a final count.

We normally do something different each year, and this year we have several new things going to take place.

1. This year the U.S. Army is going to be part of our reunion in order to make some awards to our members. No more will be said about this until you see the ceremony at our Friday night Clam and Lobster dinner.
2. We have some additional awards to be given at the memorial service on Saturday morning.
3. We also have two special events taking place during our Saturday night dinner theater outing.
4. We are working on something new for the banquet on Sunday, but the plans are not complete as yet.

As you can see from the above, we try to cram as much into one of our reunions as we possibly can.

There have been several suggestions as to where our reunion will be next year. Some of our members have suggested Memphis, Tenn., Nashville, Tenn., Indianapolis, Ind. and Chicago, Ill. In checking on these locations I have found that Chicago would be enormously expensive in hotel rates and other things, so that one has been dropped from consideration. I am still working on the other three, and will report to the Board of Governors meeting in Bangor on what I have found.

In the meantime, if you have not sent in your reunion payments, you may get cancelled for non-payment. I need to hear from you right away about any questions you may have, and if someone still wants to make a reservation, I might be able to accommodate one or two more rooms. The hotel we are dealing with this year is smaller than we have dealt with in the past few years. Let me know immediately if you decide to come to Bangor.

Bill Robey, Reunion Chairman

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

John W. "J.W." Baswell E Co., 60th Inf. Regt.	Joseph J. Joyce C Co., 60th Inf. Regt.	Hal C. Saum Hqs. Co. 3rd Bn, 47th Inf. Regt.
Kathryn S. Johnson Wife of Charles "Hoss" Johnson	Robert G. Lewis E Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Agnes Speers Widow of Ralton M. Speers
Norman C. Johnson E Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Nicholas Nichols	

TAPS LETTERS

John W. "J.W." Baswell E Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

Please accept this check for the 9th Div. in memory of J.W. Baswell who thought so much of the 9th Div.
Madeline W. Burr

Kathryn S. Johnson Wife of Charles "Hoss" Johnson

Kathryn S. Johnson, 85, of Cambridge, Maryland, went to be with her Lord at her home on Saturday, April 18, 2009. They had been married for 62 years. She always looked forward to attending the annual reunions and the fellowship with other comrades and their wives. She will be greatly missed by all.
Charles "Hoss" Johnson

Norman C. Johnson E Co., 47th Inf. Regt.

It is with great sadness I write to inform you of the passing of my father, Norman Clifford Johnson. He passed away peacefully at his home on March 14, 2009. He was 91 years old. He is survived by his wonderful wife Helen. They were happily married for 63 years. Mr. Johnson also raised two daughters: Karen A. Walter and Barbara J. Hepler, along with three grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

My father joined the U.S. Army when he was 22 years old in 1940. He was with Company E, 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division and was a light machine gunner. He trained at Fort Bragg, N.C. with the 9th Infantry Division, which traveled by ship for battle in Northern Africa. He was a prisoner of war from 1943 to 1945 and was first captured in Africa. He was transferred to various prison camps over this time period. He even could quote the exact time he was a POW—two years, one month, three days, nine hours and 15 minutes. I will surely miss his war stories and something I can recall was the part about eating fish-head soup and that the beds were flea infested.

When I read in a local newspaper about a Honor Flight that would take World War II veterans on a trip to see the World War II Monument I submitted an application on his behalf. In October of 2008 I was so pleased when he was chosen to go be a part of the Honor Flight. Afterwards, he would speak highly of this trip especially the beauty of the Arlington Cemetery. I would

(continued next column)

recommend the trip to anyone who may be interested.

My father enjoyed reading *The Octofoil*, although I believe his subscription may have expired within the last year or so. I am enclosing a memorial donation in his honor to *The Octofoil*. If you would be so kind to mail me a copy of *The Octofoil* newsletter that you publish this information on my father in, I would appreciate it. Also, if anyone may have actually known my father during World War II, I would welcome hearing from them. My mailing address is: Mrs. Karen Walter, 320 Saf Ln., Kane, PA 16735. Thank you so much.

Sincerely, Mrs. Karen Walter

Nicholas Nichols

My husband, Nicholas Nichols passed away on March 18, 2009.

Beatrice Nichols

Hal C. Saum Hqs. Co., 3rd Bn, 47th Inf. Regt.

My husband, Hal C. Saum, passed away on February 11, 2009, in Kearney, Nebraska.

Hal was a replacement assigned to Headquarters Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 47th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Division. He was a Radio Operator for the Battalion Commander.

For his family Hal wrote about his World War II years. I thought you might like reading parts of this write-up.

We attended several of the 9th Division reunions and enjoyed them all. And we both liked *The Octofoil*. May I continue receiving it?

Sincerely, Barbara Saum

Agnes Speers, Widow of Ralton M. Speers

I am writing to inform you of the passing of my mother, Agnes Speers, age 88, widow of Ralton M. Speers, on November 4, 2008.

They attended almost all of the reunions and were proud to have been a part of the 9th Division, 60th Infantry, Company D, serving our country from North Africa to Germany.

Please use the enclosed check toward any needs you may have, in memory of my dad: T/Sgt. Ralton M. Speers, Albany, N.Y.

Sincerely, Nancy Speers Keenholts, daughter

TAPS OBITUARIES



John W. "J.W." Baswell 1919-2009 E Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

Following a short illness, John W. "J.W." Baswell passed away peacefully at Montfort Jones Hospital in Kosciusko, Friday, April 3, 2009. Mr. Baswell was born in Sturgis on April 26, 1919 to John and Willie Baswell. He was one of the second group of young men drafted into the U.S.

Army in 1941. He would serve with the "Old Reliables" aka "Hitler's Nemesis" famed 9th Infantry Division from North Africa to Germany returning to the United States in 1945. He returned to the farming and logging occupation before beginning his career at the MSU/MAFES as an agronomy technician retiring after 37 plus years.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 48 years, Mildred Starks Baswell, his parents, a grandson and four brothers. He is survived by son John Baswell, Jr. and wife Glenda of Ackerman, Miss. and daughter Jeanette and husband Jerry Taylor of Collierville, Tenn.; three grandsons; 2 granddaughters; a sister and brother; 15 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank nursing and other staff of Montford Jones, staff of MS State Veterans Home Kosciusko.

He set the standard for his family, church, community and country to be guided by, and will be sadly missed by all that knew him.



Norman C. Johnson 1918-2009 E Co., 47th Inf. Regt.

Norman C. Johnson, age 91, of 619 Dawson Street, Kane, died Saturday, March 14, 2009, at his home. He was born on Feb. 1, 1918, in Kane, son of Gustaf and Ida Anderson Johnson. On Sept. 7, 1946, in Rassellas, he married Helen A. Taraska, who survives.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the 9th Infantry Division, and was a POW for over two years. Last year, he took the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Veterans Administration.

He worked at Howe's Leather in Mt. Jewett, and then for Steven Osborn in Ridgeway. Later, he was a caretaker for Mt. Tabor Cemetery and a watchman at Houston Electronics, both in Kane. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and outdoorsman.

He was a member of the Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kane, the American Legion in Mt. Jewett for 52 years, the VFW Post #1132 and the F.O. Eagles, both in Kane, as well as the Kane Fish and Game Club.

He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Barbara (Wilson) Hepler and Karen (Ike) Walter, both of Kane; two sisters; three grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.



Joseph J. Joyce 1921-2009 C Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

Joseph J. Joyce, 88, of Bloomington, formerly of Minneapolis. Preceded in death by wife Nancy and a sister. Survived by daughters, Sue Seifert (Tom), Sally Duran (John), Anne Joyce, and Lisa Suhany (Mark); sons John Joyce (Cindy) and Mark Joyce; fourteen grandchildren; two great grandchildren; two sister-in-law's; one brother-in-law; several nieces and nephews.

Born in St. Paul, a graduate of The University of St. Thomas, decorated Captain in the 9th Infantry during WWII, served again during the Korean conflict, recently granted dual Irish Citizenship. A career in the insurance industry with over 30 years at American Hardware Mutual brought great satisfaction and many relationships and memories. Joe was a kind and gentle man who enjoyed his traditions. He loved being with his family, his friends, skiing, boating on the river and his time at Bay Lake and Christmas Lake. A member of many civic and charitable organizations, he loved to help others and always wanted to be "part of the action."

Born in St. Paul, a graduate of The University of St. Thomas, decorated Captain in the 9th Infantry during WWII, served again during the Korean conflict, recently granted dual Irish Citizenship. A career in the insurance industry with over 30 years at American Hardware Mutual brought great satisfaction and many relationships and memories. Joe was a kind and gentle man who enjoyed his traditions. He loved being with his family, his friends, skiing, boating on the river and his time at Bay Lake and Christmas Lake. A member of many civic and charitable organizations, he loved to help others and always wanted to be "part of the action."



Robert G. Lewis 1921-2009 E Co., 47th Inf. Regt.

Robert G. Lewis, 87, of North Belle Vernon, died Monday, April 6, 2009, in Mon Valley Hospital. A son of the late Benjamin and Edna Ford Lewis, he was born in Republic on July 16, 1921. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, the American Legion Post 659, both

of Belle Vernon, and the Charleoi Elks, where he had served as the Exalted Ruler. A resident of North Belle Vernon since 1955, he retired as a coal miner from Republic Steel Company, served in the U.S. Army, 9th Infantry Division, in the African Campaign during World War II, and he was a prisoner of war. Bob also was a cook at the Foster House in Belle Vernon for 18 years. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Berneil McGill Lewis; two daughters, Kerry Beres, of Monticello, Minn., and Bobbi Sue Lewis, of Belle Vernon; two sisters; one brother; and two grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, one sister and two brothers.

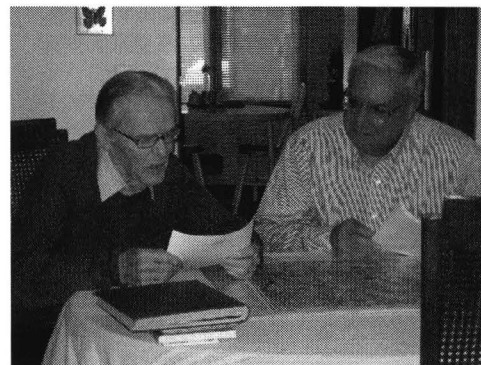
TAPS TRIBUTES

1st Lt. Joseph J. Joyce, Platoon Leader 1st Platoon, C Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

I met Joe for the first time on Saturday, March 16, 2007 at his home in Bloomington, Minnesota. By sheer coincidence, 62 years to the day that my father was killed in action.

Several months before, Joe had answered my letter of inquiry by calling me saying that he knew my father. As one can imagine I suddenly got cold chills and sweats, but finally composed myself and began a barrage of questions. Over the course of the next few months we had several more phone calls and exchanged many letters. I sent him combat records that I had collected from the National Archives and copies of topographic maps. I had asked him if he would trace the route that he and my father took from the time they met until they were separated.

One day he suggested that if I were in the area I should stop by to chat. I thought what a gift, how could I be so lucky that this man was so willing to share his story with me. We immediately started to plan a trip and worked out the details. When I arrived at his house he had his books, a typed chronology and the topographic maps with the route traced on them.



We spent two intense days together going over the events that he could remember. His clarity for detail was amazing as he described situations that he and my father encountered. He told me that my

father was the platoon sergeant and that they worked close together. He explained the kind of man my father was, the soldier he was and the respect that all the men in the platoon had for him, including himself. Joe gave me insights of a father I was never able to know.

Joe would later be promoted to Captain serving on the staff of Colonel John G. Van Houten.

Thank you Joe for helping me on my journey of discovery about my father. You were a friend to my father and a friend to me. I salute you Captain Joyce. Rest in peace.

Sincerely,
William Sauers, son of S/Sgt. William L. Sauers

Symbols for the folds of the Flag

Have you noticed how the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times?

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their nations motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.



Lt. Col. Matt Louis Urban Memorial Dedication May 3, 2009 Monroe, Michigan



Stan Opferman, far left, Jennie Urban, Matt Urban's widow, and Richard Perch surround the newly unveiled memorial to Lt. Col. Matt Louis Urban, who was awarded 29 medals, including the Medal of Honor, for his service in World War II. The ceremony was in Veterans Park in Monroe.

Jetta Fraser, The Blade of Toledo, Ohio, May 2009

Floyd W. Hennessey, 9th Quartermaster Battalion, of Lambertville, Michigan represented The Ninth Infantry Division Association at the memorial dedication ceremony on Sunday, May 3, 2009. The ceremony began at 3:00 p.m. in Veterans Park, 1671 N. Custer Rd., Monroe, Michigan. Local veterans groups and special guests including his widow Jeannie Urban of Holland, Michigan, attended the unveiling of the granite monument. According to Wayne Blank, a member of Matt Urban American Legion Post 40 in Monroe, the campaign to erect the monument began more than five years ago. Thousands of dollars were raised through volunteer fundraising efforts, donations from The Laz-A-Boy Foundation and in-kind donations of materials and labor from Gratton Construction. For more information contact Mr. Blank at 734-241-9131.

Remembering Normandy - A Grandson's Story

By Mark Primmer

"As the numbers of this, our Greatest Generation, dwindle, we ask ourselves, how are we to honor them? How can we ever truly thank them?... There is only one answer: To take the torch from their failing hands and carry it high." Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's words put a lump in my throat, a lump that would last the rest of the day.



There I was, sitting alone, with some 8,000 others, on a sunny June 6 afternoon at the American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France watching and listening to four heads of state pay tribute to the sacrifices of soldiers who 65 years ago charged into the teeth of writhing German fire on the beaches code named Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. Oh, how I wish Grampie could have been there with me.

After almost nine years of living in Paris, I had yet to go to Normandy during D-Day commemoration week. I had visited there twice before when we first moved to France, and both times I was deeply touched by the memorials and the museums. I remember tracing on the map where Grampie, Everett Tapp, had come ashore on 10 June 1944 (D plus 4) with his unit in the 9th Infantry Division.

Then I received an email message in late May this year that caught my eye. It was from the U.S. Embassy—an invitation from U.S. President Barack Obama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy. Why me? I asked myself—feeling fortunate at receiving such a message. It was a mystery how I had been invited. My wife thought it was because I had served almost 10 years flying in the U.S. Navy, and now being in France 'they' had put the two

together. Perhaps it was due to my work at the OECD, an international organization headquartered in Paris. Regardless, there it was in my inbox, and there began my journey back to Normandy. I was thrilled.

With this prospect of attending the D-Day commemorations, I began to recall the stories that Grampie had told over the years. He had repeated them with a certain regularity that is common in older age. With his passing three years ago just after Memorial Day, I got in touch with my family in hopes to re-kindle our collective memories.

I also contacted the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary of The Ninth Infantry Division Association to see if they knew of anyone from the 9th that would be going to Normandy. I thought it would be nice to connect with others who had a special feeling for the red and blue Octofoil emblem that Grampie had worn. Unfortunately, they were not aware of anyone attending the commemoration ceremony this year. To my surprise, they then asked if I could help them by being their representative and to place a suitable wreath for them at the ceremony. Wow, what an honor. My going to Normandy now took on a larger significance than I had first imagined—it was now a mission.

Everett Tapp was my step-grandfather, but he will always be Grampie to me. It was during a 9th Infantry reunion trip to Europe in 1970 that he met my widowed grandmother. They were married the following year—I was their 8-year old ring bearer. His three daughters and son from a previous marriage were not that much older than I, but they were my aunts and uncle. Over the years, our families developed strong bonds, and we have enjoyed many good times together. Aunt Pat shared some of her memories with me a few days before this year's ceremony, including one of my favorite Grampie stories:

"Regarding the German prisoners that he guarded, one prisoner advised dad that his mother lived close by and would dad allow him to visit his mother with his promise to immediately return to dad's encampment. Dad's soft heart ruled his decision to allow the prisoner to visit his mother, but dad told him if he did not return to imprisonment under dad's guard, dad would shoot his comrades. Dad tells of the prisoner returning with his mother beside, and as a gesture of her gratitude they carried a bucket of fresh berries to give to dad."

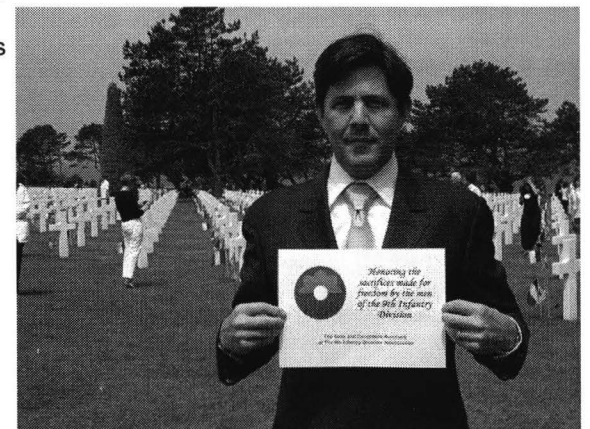
Empowered with this and other stories, I felt my going to Normandy was somehow unique. I tried to organize a wreath laying, speaking with both the embassy as well as the American Battle Monuments Commission. But the heavy security for the heads of state (the fourth being British Prime Minister Gordon Brown) precluded any such action. Instead I made a sign for use in photos, which read "Honoring the sacrifices made for freedom by the men of the 9th Infantry Division—from the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary." I would put this to good use.

Arriving at the Paris train station early on Saturday morning, the 6th of June, I soon realized that I was getting into something bigger than I could have imagined. The platform was packed with people of all ages all heading to Normandy, lots of energy and noise. We were loaded onto buses in Caen, the staging point for our trip to Colleville-sur-Mer. Being commemoration week and for security reasons, the French authorities had closed the roads leading to the cemetery area—it was not possible to arrive by private car.

The 14-bus caravan with police escorts that took us to the American Cemetery traveled with military precision. I sat next to three U.S. Navy sailors who collectively represented the different stages of a military career. The Senior Chief Petty Officer had already completed 21 years of service. He was dressed in his white uniform for his re-enlistment that was to be performed that day by the accompanying mid-career Lieutenant. Sitting across the aisle was a young newly commissioned Annapolis graduate who was on leave prior to beginning his flight training in Florida. Elsewhere on the bus, there were veterans both young and old, civilian family members of D-Day soldiers, as well as French nationals. Conversation flowed freely, mixed with periods of quiet reflection.

Upon arriving, we had a good hour before we had to be in our seats for the start of the ceremony and arrival of the Official Party. For those that have been there, it is a place like no other. A solemn peace exists there. Perched on the cliffs of the Normandy

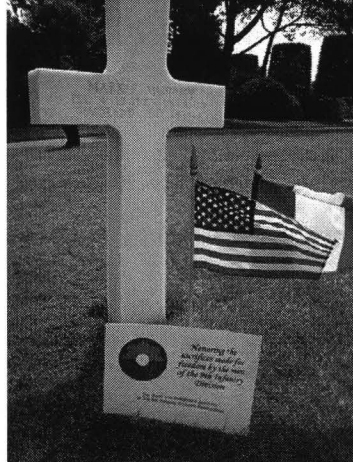
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(Remembering Normandy...continued from page 7)

beaches, overlooking the English Channel, it is a green park filled with white Crosses and Mogen Davids commemorating the lives of 9,387 of our military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the D-Day landings and ensuing operations. As I wandered around the cemetery reflecting on the bravery of all those who fought to defend freedom during those days in 1944, I found several crosses marked with the 9th Division, and took some photos.

A reporter saw me with the sign I made and asked me what I was doing. I told him about Grampie and the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary. He took some notes, adding to his collection. Seeing the pages of "other stories" in his notebook, I began to lose my sense of uniqueness. I was one of many; in fact I was one of over 8,000 stories wandering the grounds. I spoke with other people, hearing about their relative, their friends, their reasons to be in Normandy.



Mark F. Murphy
Technician Fourth Class
15th Engineer Battalion
Died: 25 July 1944
Plot B, Row 1, Grave 32

I thought about all of this during the National Anthems and the Invocation. Even during the speeches. President Sarkozy reminded us that France would never forget the sacrifices made by the Allies in liberating his country. Prime Minister Brown pointed to the sacred ground around us, recalling that the landings were a breakthrough toward victory and the start of a new world. President Obama spoke to the veterans of that landing and how they are why we still remember what happened on D-Day, how they remind us that human destiny is not determined by forces beyond our control.

Afterward, four veterans were presented French Legion of Honor awards, and then the four heads of state and Prince Charles of Britain laid the one wreath for the day.

There were several times when silence fell over the crowd, and you could hear the sound of the waves rolling in on the distant sands. The 21-gun salute then jolted us with its thundering tribute to the fallen. I couldn't help thinking how these explosions paled in comparison to the noise on the beach 65 years ago.

The sky was beginning to cloud over; more than just the smoke from the guns. Not a person moved, nor noise could be heard when the bugler sounded Taps in one of the most emotion filled renditions I had experienced. The ceremony ended with a flyover by French, British, and American jets. When the designated American pilot pulled up sharply over the cemetery to create the missing-man formation, his after-burners roared as he climbed straight upwards until disappearing into the heaven like clouds.

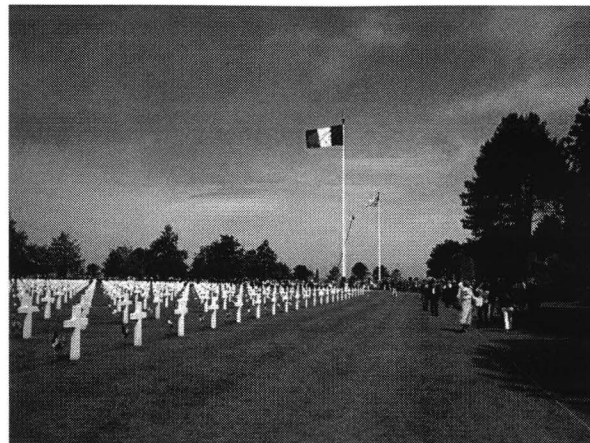
All that was left was the departure. We waited until security advised that the Official

Party had cleared the grounds before we were allowed to move around again. I was able to go up and have my photo taken next to the ceremonial wreath (on which I had placed my sign for the 9th Division). The evening train back to Paris was silent.

I reflected on the story President Obama told about one veteran, a man named Jim Norene, a member of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. The night before the ceremony, after visiting this cemetery for one last time, Jim had passed away in his sleep.

"He came for the reason articulated by Howard Huebner, another former paratrooper who is here with us today. When asked why he made the trip, Howard said, 'It's important that we tell our stories. It doesn't have to be something big, just a little story about what happened-so people don't forget.' So people don't forget."

Saturday, June 6, 2009 will remain very special to me. It was an important day of remembrance, and I was indeed privileged to join the 8,000 others, who had their own special reasons for attending the Commemoration Ceremony in Normandy. Each one of us has a story to tell. Grampie, my story today is for you. It is my honor to pass on 'your story' to others, so that we may never forget. May your torch never fade.



CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Emil De Donato

2009 Daytona Beach Reunion: The weather on April 20, 21 & 23 was gorgeous. The Ocean Shore Resort was a great location and the 17 plus one guest who attended the 2009 Florida Chapter reunion really enjoyed themselves. Emil and Audrey De Donato, Marty and Rosalyn Gross arrived a day earlier to set up and make sure the Hospitality Room was well stocked with food and drinks.

Monday was registration day. By 4:00 p.m. all of the attendees arrived safely. The pizza party coupled with a big salad, snacks, drinks and lots of friendly chatter lasted until midnight.

The tour of the Chocolate Factory on Tuesday morning was very interesting especially that the owners furnished us with a huge tray with samples of different chocolates. Several members bought boxes of chocolate to take home. Back at the Hospitality Room following the tour, Ret. Lt. Col. Ralph Williams setup his visual equipment to show us a Power Point slide photo presentation of past Florida Chapter reunions and other interesting photos of places where he and his wife Liz visited. At 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, the group went to the Red Lobster restaurant which was only minutes away from the motel. A private room with tables set up in a "U" arrangement was waiting for us. Everyone chose their own dinner from the menu. Yes, many lobsters were served. Emil gave a short talk on the history of the Florida Chapter at the end of the meal. Because it was still daylight at the end of the meal, some chose to walk the famous Daytona Beach, others chose to sit around the big pool or remain indoors viewing the displays, photos or just chattering with one another in the Hospitality Room.

At 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, the Women's Auxiliary members joined in on the regular Men's Business Meeting. Highlights of the meeting were: a) The Florida Chapter Treasurer reported that the chapter is fiscally sound; b) new member Jay Lavin joined the chapter but was unable to attend our reunion; c) the election of chapter officers was held. The same officers, namely Martin Gross, President, Ret. Lt. Col. Ralph Williams, Vice President, Ed Gray, Secretary, Emil De Donato, Treasurer/Public Relations, H.F. Stansell, Chaplain were elected; d) The reunion committee consisting of Marty Gross, Ralph Williams and Emil De Donato was re-enlisted to serve another year; e) Discussions on the location for the 2010 Florida Chapter reunion were held. Rosalyn Gross suggested a cruise to the Bahamas. She volunteered to look into the costs, dates, location for a cruise. Emil suggested going to the Tampa Hard Rock Casino. He will follow up on his suggestion. Other suggestions for the reunion committee to consider was to go to St. Augustine or any large city in the Orlando or Tampa areas. Following the adjournment of the meeting, the six hour free time allowed some members to rest while others chose the beach or the pool or the Hospitality Room.

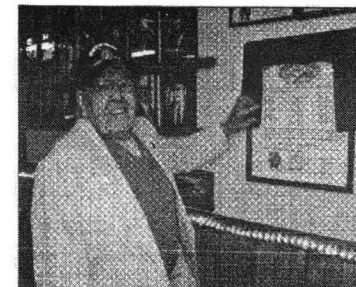
The catered banquet dinner held in the breakfast room of the motel did not go as well as planned. However, the members made the best of the chicken casserole and the beef stroganoff "all you can eat" menu. The reunion committee received many compliments on the truly great package deal for two persons in a room for three nights lodging, a pizza party, a tour of the Chocolate Factory, dinner at the Red Lobster restaurant, the catered banquet dinner, plenty of food, snacks and drinks in the Hospitality Room, a complementary breakfast every morning, all for a total low price of \$270.00. We regret that more members did not take advantage of this fine packaged deal.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Wally Richardson: We congratulate Wally for his tenacity in driving his Ford truck alone from Franklin, Indiana to Daytona Beach to attend the Florida Chapter reunion. At 89 years old Wally is that kind of a guy who has selflessly given himself to people. He

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volunteered his time and talent to serve as an auctioneer for the Franklin Senior Center fundraiser. He was honored at the Greenwood VFW Post for his chartered role in the building of the Greenwood Post over 30 years ago. Wally served in Co. A, 47th Infantry Regiment. He was wounded twice by shrapnel and awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster in addition to other medals. Wally has moved to 1696 Preidt Ct., Franklin, IN 46131 and can be reached on his cell phone at 317-412-5279.



Wally Richardson stands next to the original charter of veterans who helped open the Greenwood VFW.

Norris Gray: Because of his serious knee problem, he and his wife Dorothy were unable to attend the Daytona Beach reunion. However, they do manage to go out to dinner occasionally or go to the Officer's Club at the Cape. Norris worked at the NASA complex for over 35 years starting in 1950. He attended many shuttle launchings as the "Fire Chief" at Cape Canaveral.

Chuck Van Der Poel: We were sorry to learn that his wife Dolores suffered a severe stroke on her right side and is now convalescing in a nursing home approximately ten minutes away from their home in Jacksonville. Dolores is able to walk a little with the aid of her caretaker and a walker. She is legally blind but her speech was not impaired. Chuck spends a great deal of time with his wife. Anyone wishing to send her a note or a get well card, please send it to Dolores Van Der Poel, 2005 Elaina Drive, Jacksonville, FL or e-mail to: godevil@bellsouth.net

Ed Gray: We were delighted to see Ed and his wife Ruth at our Daytona Beach reunion. Ed and Emil have teamed up to update the membership roster. Please contact Emil for any changes in your listing or that of a fellow member. Also, please send any news to Emil for inclusion in *The Octofoil*.

Emil J. De Donato
3650 SW Mosswood St.
Dunnellon, FL 34431
E-mail: mrddee82918@aol.com

TEXAS AND THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

We were heartened that Jack Blann's widow, Lavonne, and his daughter, Mary Blann Cooper, were able to join us for our semi-annual meeting.

Prior to our dinner on May 7, Herb Stern held a memorial service for Jack and John Miller, the Chapter founder. These two men were instrumental in maintaining the Chapter and both served as Presidents of the National Association.

Herb Stern, Secretary-Treasurer of the Chapter convened the business meeting on May 8. By acclamation, Herb was elected President. He in turn asked Gordon Schneider to assume the Chapter Secretary role. Because of the potential hassle of changing our small bank account, Herb agreed to maintain the Treasurer's role.

A discussion was held as to continuing the Chapter or whether to dissolve it. Ultimately the decision to maintain the Chapter was unanimous.

Reflecting on our dwindling Chapter membership, Herb pointed out that the National will also be facing the same dilemma. With so many committees at the National level, just filling the vacancies will pose a problem.

As the organization's Charter only allows those who

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(Texas...Chapter...continued from page 9)

served in the Division to hold membership, this precludes the Auxiliary group of Sons and Daughters, from ultimately administering the day to day affairs of the National and of the Chapters.

It was the opinion of the members present that the National Charter should be revised to allow an orderly transition of its affairs.

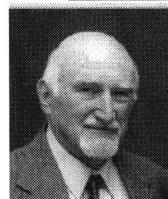
Attending the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. John Arnold, Lavonne Blann, Sam Burns and Anita Biver, Mary Blann Cooper and her daughter, Bonnie Dnebo, Ron Burris, Richard and Nancy Rutner, Jean Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Stern, Dr. Charles Stern and Gordon Schneider.

Charles Illsley was in Germany and was unable to attend.

As of today, June 6, Herb Stern is in Triumph Hospital in Houston, recovering from surgery to his leg. Hopefully he will be able to attend the forth coming National meeting.

The Chapter's fall meeting is again scheduled at Summers Mill on November 5, 6, 2009.

Gordon Schneider, Secretary



Marv Levy

GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER

The New York Chapter met at its usual command post in the Franklin Square Library, Franklin Square, New York on Friday, April 17, 2009. Seven members attended the meeting: Joe Charvat, Ed Harris, Joe Killen, Marv Levy, John Tschupp, Tony Varone and Al Zenka. At 1:30 p.m. President Charvat (feeling much better since his bout with lung cancer) opened the meeting with members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chaplain Killen gave the convocation and a moment of silence was observed for our deceased buddies, POW's and MIA's. During the meeting we had a lunch of pizza which Zenka had ordered. Meeting began with the reading of the March 20 minutes by the recording secretary (me). Treasurer-Secretary Joe Maiale was still away in Florida, thus no financial report. Discussion followed regarding our upcoming annual Memorial Service at the VA National Cemetery in May. Zenka also notified us that he had received a check from heirs, bequeathed by deceased member Adolph Wadalavage to the New York Chapter. Some discussion followed regarding the upcoming reunion in Bangor, Maine, to which Maiale had previously indicated he and Sadie would attend. There was no further business discussion so we chatted and adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Annual Memorial Service

On Saturday, May 16, Armed Forces Day, we met in the parking lot at the VA National Cemetery in Farmingdale, Long Island, New York for our annual Memorial Service to remember our buddies who perished in World War II, and those who have since left us. We were joined by Cemetery Director William E. Rhoades and his wife Debby and Debby's visiting out-of-town parents. Members and spouses attending were: Joe and Betty Charvat, Ed Harris, Joe Killen, Marv and Barbara Levy, Joe and Sadie Maiale, William Muldoon, John Tschupp, Tony Varone and Al Zenka. Because of venerable members' health concerns we did not march with our flags and Octofoil wreath proudly held high from the parking lot down the Boulevard of Flags to the speaker's rostrum. We went in a procession of cars.

The day was slightly overcast, and a breeze fluttered the flags and tugged at the Octofoil wreath on its spindly easel legs, but the Old Reliable held its ground in front of the podium. President Joe Charvat opened the proceedings. A recording of The Star Spangled Banner anthem was played over the loudspeaker and Charvat led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chaplain Killen gave the convocation. Short addresses were given by Levy, Maiale and Varone to honor our deceased 9th men. The service closed with recorded Taps and the group was dismissed. We regrouped in the community room for a short meeting and

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then proceeded to the nearby Spartan Restaurant for lunch.

Our next and final meeting before the summer hiatus will be on Friday, June 19, 2009, at the same command post in the Franklin Square Library. For all our ill members and families who have not been able to join us, we wish you all better health and quick recovery.

Marv Levy, Recording Secretary



Judy Goldsmith
President
Ladies Auxiliary

LADIES CORNER

I hope you receive this issue before our reunion in Bangor, Maine. Our editor is going to try to have *The Octofoil* printed and mailed soon. Since I am one who never seems to get it to William Sauers before the deadline, I hope I don't hold things up for him.

Can you believe that we are going to our 64th reunion? WOW! When we had our first reunion in New York (I believe), I am sure no one ever considered our longevity. So many happy and sad memories over the past years. Even though many have left us, we all have such happy memories that helps us to feel that they are still with us. I have always felt we are all family. We brought our children to past reunions and now some are bringing their children. Our greatest thanks to The Sons And Daughters. They are our greatest generation.

Willy and I will be arriving at the hotel in Bangor on July 22nd. If you want me to find out anything before you arrive, please call me on my cell [REDACTED]

Don't forget your Pollyanna gift. We also need items to be raffled at the banquet. This opens up a really serious situation we have encountered for the past few years. Jean Geary has worked very hard to arrange our luncheon meeting with the hotel coordinator during the past months. At the present time, so few have sent their checks to her for the luncheon and member dues. The total is \$22.00. Once again Jean and I have to make phone calls to those that have registered for the reunion. I am sure our lives are just as busy as yours getting ready for our trip.

There have been so few members willing to take on a responsibility in order to have our auxiliary remain active. Your current officers would appreciate some volunteers from the other side of the rostrum to raise their hand when we hold our election this year. I can assure you that your current officers, Judy, Jean and Jackie will not desert you and would always be available for assistance. So, ladies, please give this some thought.

See you in Bangor.

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



Check the mailing label. If your label indicates that your subscription expired Jun 2009, this will be the last issue you will receive. Send your renewal dues to Bill Robey ASAP. Thank you.

MAIL CALL

SEEKING INFORMATION

Lewis A. Montague

I was in Co. B, 39th Inf. Regt. From July 1944 until March 1945. If anyone was there or knows anyone, please contact me. I was a replacement. Lost everything and never heard from anyone.

Signed Lewis A. Montague

SEEKING INFORMATION

Warren A. Robinson

I'm looking for the whereabouts of Paul A. Bridges. We served in Company B, 47th Infantry Regiment. In 1945 following the end of the war in Germany, as I was leaving to come home, Paul gave me his New Testament. I believe Paul told me he was from North Carolina. After 64 years I would like to return his New Testament to Paul or his family.

Signed Warren A. Robinson

Lisa Froug-Hirano

During the years of my active research into my uncle's service with the 9th, it was so very difficult to find any written documentation on Company B, 60th to help me reconstruct my uncle's final days. I found out why. The 60th suffered casualties of nearly 100% in the Siegfried Line and Hürtgen Forest and no one remained who could report on, and describe in detail, those horrific days. What I did find was a handful of men who served in Company B and survived. Only three brave men remain today, Capt. Grady Holman Jr. (92) of Georgia, Mr. John Celler (91) of Connecticut and Mr. Orval Riggelman (86) of West Virginia.

I'd like to honor these men with this letter and the recognition of their fighting unit which was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for action on December 12, 1944. In addition, Capt. Holman is one of only 76 men of the 9th to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

They all say that they were just doing their jobs and are not heroes and that the true heroes were left behind. I've told them that it is because of them, and each one of you who survived and made it home, that the men who did not come back, Gail Eisenhauers' and William Sauers' fathers and my uncle included, did not die in vain. The war could not have been won without you and we honor you with gratefulness and devotion

You are forever in my heart,

Signed Lisa Froug-Hirano

PS: If there is anything I can do to help you share your stories, exploits and the details of your experiences please let me know. Also, if there are any vets of Company B, 60th Inf., or their kin out there whom I do not know, please, please write and let me know. Thank you deeply.

Larry T. Faulkner

The enclosed money order is for a life time membership with 9th Infantry Division Association.

It there is any overage, please use for memory of 1st Lt. John Sabato and T/Sgt. Charlie Horvatich, both served in Easy

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MAIL CALL

MAIL CALL

Company, 39th RCT. Aka "Fighting Falcons" during my years and 34 months at Fort Bragg and all of the campaigns the 9th ID participated in during WW II. John, Charlie and myself were onboard when the USS Thomas Stone suffered a torpedo during the invasion of Algiers, North Africa. I'm sure you've heard the rest of this story many times.

Please inform my ole buddy, retired 1st Sgt. John Sabato, Larry's back. Please excuse mistakes in this message, I'm blind in the left eye with failing sight in the other. Of course by now you've figured out Larry is a hunt and peck typist.

Regards to the following combat brothers in Easy Company, 39th, as well as Red Phillips, Mike Fraticelli, director and producer of "Survivor Stories, North Africa 1942-43" which may be completed enough to show to the troops during the reunion in Bangor, Maine.

Finally Bill Robey, thank you in advance for the hectic job you're holding and performing for ex-Grunts as me and those most reliable supporting and necessary "Old Reliables" 9th soldiers that hung out with us during the 34 months.

Take care Bill and God bless.

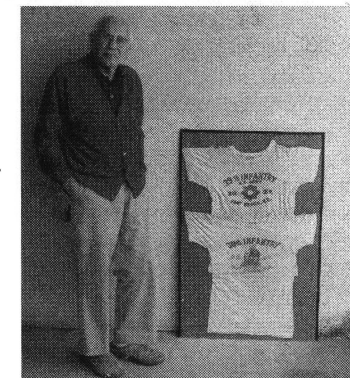
At 88 years I'm hoping to make the reunion but 6 months to go, condition of old-age changes from minutes to seconds. Can't plan!!!

Signed Larry Faulkner

Jerome Tishler

These T-shirts were a PX purchase in 1942 at Bragg. Never wore them. Regards to all.

Signed Jerome Tishler



Arlene Silver

We feel privileged and honored to share this reunion weekend with the 9th. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to touch history again.

Looking forward to Maine.

With best regards,

Signed Arlene and Keith Silver, children of Sgt. Perry Kuniansky (Kaye)

Joseph A. Gurli

Please add my name and photo to the Ninety's Club. I was drafted in the service February 1941 to Fort Bragg, 1942 went to Casablanca, Africa, on to Sicily, England, France, Belgium and Germany. I returned home August 1945. Got married January 1946 to my lovely wife Margie for 63 years and hoping for many more. Enclosed is a check for dues for *The Octofoil*.

Thank you.

Signed Joe Gurli, 34th Field Artillery Battalion

Gordon H. Anderson

I am writing to you to renew my membership in The Ninth Infantry Division Association. I have been a member of the Illinois Chapter which has no longer had enough active members to maintain our Chapter. Mike and Ann Belmonte were two of the most active members of the Illinois Chapter. We maintained a good contact with the Michigan Chapter with gatherings in Angola, Indiana, Madison, Wisconsin and the Gaertner's of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin with numerous members from Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania. Michigan and Illinois had gatherings every year in Angola, Indiana which proved to be enjoyed by all who attended.

I can't go into detail of these gatherings as someone would be left out. I am in close contact with John Bonkowski of Michigan as we shared our memories of the 9th Recon Troop as buddies in our ventures in WW II. We both shared our experiences as radio operators in different platoons.

I have not attended any reunions since about 9 years ago when I discovered I had Parkinson's Disease which somehow slowed down my activities.

Most recently I was diagnosed with cancer and am now preparing for a series of Radiology treatments. Other than that I am feeling pretty good.

I enjoy receiving *The Octofoil* and am looking forward to every issue. Keep up the good work—your efforts are appreciated.

Signed Gordon H. Anderson

PS: I resided in Des Plaines, Illinois until my wife, Marion, passed away, Feb. 27, 2003. In 2004 I moved to Tennessee to live with my son, Ron, which is where I reside now. My son and his wife, Joanne, have been taking good care of me, preparing meals and lodging for me, doing my laundry and providing transportation to the hospitals and doctors when necessary. I am deeply indebted to them.

Alton E. Le Duc

Enclosed is a picture of my husband and I. Please include my husband in the Ninety's Club. The enclosed picture was taken last Easter at our Florida home.

He would enjoy seeing his name in *The Octofoil*.

Thanks.

Signed Alice Le Duc

Wyett H. Colclasure

November 8, 1942, went ashore Port Layante, that day was my 30th birthday, am now 96.

Sgt. Nelson was my mortar platoon Sgt., Co. H, 60th on 8 April 1943. Collected too many pieces of shrapnel. Shipped back to states. Disability retired.

One son, retired Colonel; one daughter, school teacher. Loving wife of 61 years, deceased

Look forward to *The Octofoil*. Hang in and thank you youngsters in keeping the association alive.

Signed Wyett H. Colclasure

Gino Felicelli

Please add my name and photo to "The Ninety's Club." Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. Drafted into the Army July 1941. Served throughout the war in Division Hdqs. (AGO) Discharged Sept. 18, 1945.

Signed Gino Felicelli

Anton J. Dietrich

Enclosed is a picture for the "Ninety's Club." I joined the 9th at Fort Bragg, after basic training at the end of October 1941 while the division was on the Carolina maneuvers, and became a member of Co. G, 39th the day before Pearl Harbor. Then I remained with G Co. till I was seriously wounded at Le Desert, France on July 12, 1944. After that I spent the next 32 months in the hospital (51 weeks of that was in a body cast). I received my discharge April 28, 1947, just short of 6 years in the Army.

Sorry will not be able to make the reunion. I'm an active member of the Greater New York Chapter.

Signed Anton J. Dietrich

Robert Griffith

Enclosed is a recent photo of me at the age of 92 years. Member of Co. G, 47th Inf. Ft. Bragg to Germany.

Signed Robert Griffith

James F. Hart

Please excuse the printing but I wanted to be sure you could read this. And thank you for your phone call.

One of my boys took this picture and I hope it will do the trick.

I spent all my overseas time as a platoon leader with Co. K, 60th Inf., 9th Div.

The 9th was the greatest outfit and I was proud to be a member. And I am proud that we have lasted all these years.

Thanks again and may all go well with you and all our comrades.

Signed James F. Hart

Mr. & Mrs. J. Rappazini

Here's another member of your 90's Club. Joe Rappazini (91), 60th Inf., Hq. Co., K Co.

Signed Mrs. J. Rappazini

Louis M. Prince

I turned 90 recently and my wife gave me a party. The only recent picture I have is the two of us together, but if you prefer you can just show my (ugly) face by itself and out the rest.

The enclosed is in memory of all our comrades who are no longer with us.

Signed Lou Prince

Second Generation Groups Secure Military Legacies

By Kaye Olson

Over the past decade, veterans of the WW II Armed Forces have struggled with decisions regarding their future and the viability of their associations. More and more members are ill, debilitated and incapable of participating in national or state events. Still mourning their buddies left behind during the European and Pacific Theaters, reality has hit; their current comrades are quickly slipping away.

A domino effect exists. Due to decreasing memberships, state chapters are dissolving and reunions now face a shift in attendees: veteran numbers are down, widows have increased and attendance by other family members has soared.

With the Army's Ninth Infantry Division Association, action was taken to ensure that their WW II efforts were not in vain. For several years at reunions, many questions challenged the veterans, triggering discussions; answers were sought. How could the division continue to be honored in history? Should we disband? What mechanism would secure the association's legacy? Is it time to ask for help? What will happen with our historical items? Could a second generation group be created? How would this be accomplished? Tough decisions evolved over time. The veterans faced their mortality head on, placing the legacy of their division above burying their heads in the sand. The tides had turned.

Following WW II, when the Ninth Infantry Division Association was formed, some veterans brought their children to the annual reunions. For over 64 years, these sons and daughters formed an incredible bond and comradeship sustained throughout the following decades. Consideration of a formal organization from the second generation seemed a natural move. After all, in recent years, many of them had helped their parents get to the national reunions and had assisted the veterans as volunteers with reunion activities.

But, to form any new group within a military association requires cautious development. Criteria might include:

- Wait for an invitation
- Seek formal recognition
- Build trust to ease transition
- Brainstorm and organize
- Create new ideas
- Plan for the future

WAIT FOR AN INVITATION

It's the need that triggers the request for help. Some veterans find new energy and involvement of the younger generation exciting, yet others are reticent to relinquish control. Some association members push quickly with new ideas, yet others slow the process. Thus, a balance of caution, carefulness and communication yields the results.

With the 9th Infantry Division, many veterans recognized drastic changes were needed within their association. Illness, deaths, lack of energy and diminishing membership plagued the group. Timing was right to reach out. For years, some of the veterans had expressed the need to have their children more involved. Likewise, the sons, daughters and relatives observed the changing veterans and their need for help. Mutually, the goals matched. A second generation group formed. With love, respect and admiration, the younger men and women took action to further honor their long-standing heroes with assistance.

SEEK FORMAL RECOGNITION

For smooth functioning, it's key for any auxiliary to receive official recognition by the military association. By the fall of 2005, the group called the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary of The Ninth Infantry Division Association received formal approval from the association's Board of Governors. This act signaled a go-ahead for the newly formed organization.

BUILD TRUST TO EASE TRANSITION

Trust excels when there has been good communication, the right timing and rewarding relationships. Particularly with military groups, following the lead of the veterans eases transitions. Keeping a balance while transferring some responsibilities and control is key. On-going communication between the veterans and the auxiliary is essential. Because of the decades of assistance to the veterans of the 9th Infantry Division by family members, the transition went smoothly.

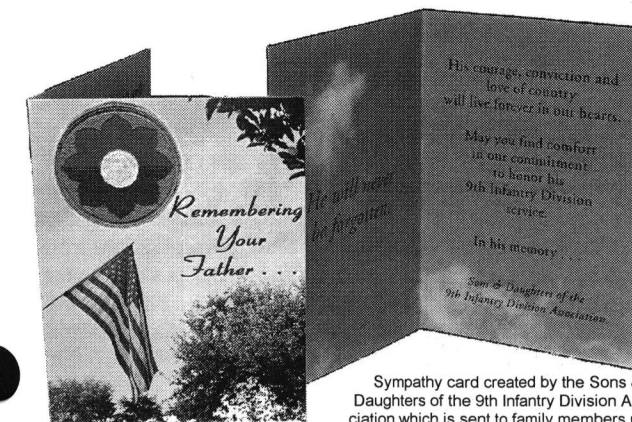
BRAINSTORM AND ORGANIZE

Once officially acknowledged, groups can get questions answered and move forward. Brainstorming yields decisions regarding criteria for membership, fees, by-laws, number of officers, responsibilities and activities. Boundaries need to be discussed. For instance, how quickly might we act? When should we become involved? How much should we do? What are the lines of communication? What activities will we join in on and which activities might we do independently?

With the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary, any descendent of a WW II Ninth Infantry Division Association member could join the organization. So, children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren all participated. Several men and women, whose father, uncle or grandfather was killed in action during the war, also joined the group. Some members had a family WW II hero deceased since 1945. The auxiliary was diverse and inclusive.

Fees started out at \$5.00, but currently are \$10.00 due to increased postage and other expenses. Now, paid membership has increased to include 120 men and women. By-laws were written. Membership cards were designed. Three co-officers were initially chosen,

(continued on page 14)



Sympathy card created by the Sons & Daughters of the 9th Infantry Division Association which is sent to family members upon a loss of a father, uncle or grandfather.

(Second Generation...continued from page 13) but due to growth, another has been added. Currently, the auxiliary has co-presidents, co-secretaries and co-treasurers which works well. The second generation group meets during the national reunions. As the years have progressed, this organization assists and supports veterans with many activities and in some cases manages events independently.

CREATE NEW IDEAS

Even though the auxiliary answers to the veterans, maintaining creativity is important. With the 9th Infantry Division Sons and Daughters, many exciting ideas evolved. Co-officers felt it was important that members blend business as well as fun activities at reunions. The younger men and women initiated photos of each veteran with their family as they arrived for the reunion. Several peers designed and produced a sympathy card which expressed support when a father, uncle or grandfather of a member passed. The front of the card displayed an American flag and an Octofoil, the insignia of the 9th Infantry Division; the inside shared a touching verse.

One member modernized communication. The association's newsletter, *The Octofoil* was digitized, saving time and money with production. Eventually, veterans and families had choices if they preferred their newsletter online, which cut costs further. In addition, with veteran support, issues now arrive quarterly, streamlined the mailing list reducing production numbers and moved the mailing status to first class, so veterans and their families now receive the newsletter in 2-3 days instead of 2-3 weeks. Some of these outcomes have saved the association hundreds of dollars each year.

The editor of *The Octofoil* created a quarterly newsletter for the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary appropriately named the *Octofoil Legacy*. Most second generation participants receive the newsletter online to save costs. He also established a digital archive as a memorial to 9th Infantry Division veterans. Photos, documents and other historical items are now a resource online for present and future generations of the veterans' descendants and war historians. The eight WW II campaigns courageously fought by these men are etched in history forever.

(continued next column)



Co-officers, William Sauers, Claire Irwin, Mary Cooper and John Sabato lead the Sons and Daughters' Auxiliary of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.



Author Kaye Olson studies her Uncle, S/Sgt. Louie Annear's Normandy Campaign

Since the end of WW II, 9th Infantry Division veterans gathered in Worcester, Massachusetts for a memorial service every October. For many decades, Rev. Edward T. Connors, who had accompanied the veterans throughout WW II, delivered the memorial service while hundreds of veterans participated. Since his passing, the annual memorial service continues. On October 26, 2008, only two veterans could attend this national event, but they were surrounded by members of the Sons and Daughters. In the future, the younger generation hopes to organize and manage future services and provide the upkeep to the 9th Infantry Division memorial.

Although the children of the veterans always helped with the reunion, the associates of the Sons and Daughters have accelerated support, monies and manpower. Since the group's inception, they assist with pre-reunion registration, schedule and work the reception area, print the name tags and absorb the cost, set up display tables, arrange for wheelchairs and obtain and conduct silent auctions, hand out contributed prizes and help with the final banquet.

Other activities keep the auxiliary members busy. Fund raisers are key, such as selling T-shirts and holding the raffles or auctions. Annually, they contribute financially to the association's treasury. At the national reunions, they eagerly listen to the WW II stories and walk through the 9th Infantry Division campaigns with the veterans. Often, the reminiscent war experiences are recorded.

Creatively, another member of the Sons and Daughters established the Octofoil.org website which is dedicated to the WW II veterans of the 9th Infantry Division. These soldiers and comrades will not be forgotten.

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Over time, second generation groups will face future decisions. After our WW II veterans are gone, how will our goals and mission be altered? What activities will we keep? Which involvements will we cease? Will there still be reunions? Does technology hold the connections? Many answers await.

Now in recent reunions, the 9th Infantry Division veterans attend, relax, enjoy and most importantly reconnect with comrades. They've earned a rest. Their energy focuses on renewing friendships, reviewing campaign battles and reminiscing their war experiences. The veterans hold the deepest gratitude for the Sons and Daughters' efforts.

For WW II veterans, then the Korean and Vietnam heroes, second generation groups will excel in keeping the mission, objectives, campaigns and history alive. The contributions of the younger generation are boundless. These groups hold the key to support, assistance, financial help and the ultimate tribute of maintaining legacies for these courageous warriors who gave their all to keep our country free.

About the author

Kaye Olson, DeWitt, Michigan is a National and State member of the WW II Ninth Infantry Division Association. She is a charter member of the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary and is a proud niece of WW II S/Sgt. Lewis (Louie) Annear, K.I.A. 7-11-44 in France. Kaye has authored two books and writes for national professional journals, newsletters and magazines.

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May/June/July 2009

OCTOFOIL LIBRARY PROJECT

Monetary and materials donations continue to come in and of this writing the project has \$4840. Phase One of the project is nearly complete. Roger Gudenkauf informs us that we have spent about \$4000 to date and he will be invoicing us for the exact amount in the near future. Roger also reports that we will have a prototype CD available at the reunion for demonstration and he will load a significant amount of the scanned material onto Terry Barnharts' laptop. Having the information on the laptop will enable us to show how we can search the material for names and places etc. Phase Two will concentrate on scanning more combat records and photos. We thank all those who generously gave financial and materials support. Our ultimate goal is to have all this material available on our website. Please keep those donations coming.

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

Project Coordinator:
William Sauers

Association Historian:
Henry G. "Red" Phillips

Assistant Coordinator:
Terry Barnhart

Missing-Damaged Octofoil's

We are in need of the following missing-damaged Octofoil's for scanning. If you have any of these that are still in good shape please send to the project coordinator. If we can find these and get them scanned we will have a complete set from Vol. 1, Issue 1 published in May 1946 to the present.

	Vol.	No.	Date	Remarks
New Monetary Donors				
Mr. Russell Camp, Slidell, Louisiana	3	8	August, 1948	Missing
Mr. Terry Barnhart, Broomfield, Colorado, in memory of his father Robert G. Barnhart	5	11	November, 1950	Missing
	9	5	May, 1954	Missing
Ms. Gail Eisenhower, Hamden, Connecticut, thank you Paul Schumacher	9	7	July, 1954	Missing
	9	8	August, 1954	Missing
	9	9	September, 1954	Missing
	9	10	October, 1954	Missing
	9	11	November, 1954	Missing
	9	12	December, 1954	Missing
New Materials Donors				
Mr. Thomas Hatton, Saginaw, Michigan has contributed a history of the Sixtieth Infantry Regiment from WW I, a photo and itinerary of the Utah Beach 25th anniversary trip, a photo of the 9th Division Monument at Ft. Bragg, a video of the division from Butler Military Videos, a booklet of the 9th Division: 1918-1968 and other miscellaneous materials.	10	1	Jan-Feb, 1955	Missing
	10	3	May-Jun, 1955	Missing
	10	5	September, 1955	Missing
Mrs. Esta LiBretto, Fairview, Texas has contributed a history of Headquarters Second Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment from 8 November 1942 through 31 December 1944.	10	13	June, 1956	Missing
	10	14	July, 1956	Missing
	10	16	October, 1956	Missing
Mr. Richard Yates has contributed a CD containing his personal memoir "A Journey."	11	1	February, 1957	Missing
	11	2	March, 1957	Missing
Mrs. Barbara Saum has contributed part II of her husband's, Hal C. Saum, life story during the World War II years.	11	3	April, 1957	Missing
	11	4	May, 1957	Missing
Mr. Larry Faulkner has contributed two books, "Above and Beyond The Call of Duty" and "GI: The US Infantryman in World War II."	11	5	June, 1957	Missing
	11	6	July, 1957	Missing
	42	5	Nov-Dec, 1987	Missing
	59	3	May-Jun-Jul, 2004	Missing
	12	5	October, 1958	Damaged
	13	5	Jun-Jul, 1960	Damaged
	19	2	Sept-Oct, 1965	Damaged
	21	6	May-Jun, 1967	Damaged
	24	6	Nov-Dec, 1969	Damaged
	28	3	May-Jun, 1973	Damaged
	29	1	Jan-Feb, 1974	Damaged
	29	4	Jul-Aug, 1974	Damaged
	39	5	Nov-Dec, 1984	Damaged
	41	5	Nov-Dec, 1986	Damaged

"Lest We Forget"

Worcester Memorial Service
Sunday, 10:00 a.m., October 25, 2009
Friends of Father Connors

Mass in remembrance of all the men who wore the Octofoil; both the 4,581 who fell on the field of battle and those who returned home and are no longer with us will be held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, 353 Grove Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, Phone # 508-754-8419.

A short Memorial Service with laying of the Ninth Infantry Division wreath will follow the Mass.

Gail Eisenhower will be organizing a brunch following the service at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. If you would like to attend the brunch please call her at 203-248-1495.

Hotel reservations are on your own. Some attendees last year bivouacked at the Crowne Plaza Worcester-Downtown, 10 Lincoln Square, Worcester, Massachusetts 01608. To make a reservation call 877-227-6963.

The Literary Ninth

Book Reviews

By Henry G. "Red" Phillips
Association Historian

Norris, CWO (Ret.) Willard (M Co., 47th Inf. Regt.). *The Echoes That Remain: A Memoir*. In 1936, then a husky Texas farm boy, Norris persuaded an Army recruiting sergeant to sign him up. Norris had basic training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas and was assigned for duty there with F Co., 23rd Infantry Regiment. After a year, when his parents complained, their son was given a discharge provided that he return to school and continue to work on the family farm.

Willard graduated from high school in 1940, meanwhile having wed Mabel who had a job, and parents who provided the couple with a room in their Huntsville, Texas home. Norris found work in a Ford dealership and the couple was listening to the radio on 7 December 1941, when the announcer interrupted with news of the Japanese attack on Hawaii.

The next day Norris reenlisted and was soon on his way to Camp Roberts, California, for training. Three months later, he was transferred to Camp Polk, Louisiana, and assigned to an infantry battalion slated for the Pacific Theater. When he spotted a glamorous poster of a fellow with silver wings on his chest, Norris decided that the Army Air Corps' Wild Blue Yonder was a better choice than a steaming Pacific island, so he found a recruiting office, passed some tests, and soon found himself at Sheppard Field outside Wichita Falls, Texas. Soon, without ever having climbed into a plane, the would-be pilots were assembled and read a letter from Headquarters Army Air Corps stating in effect, "Sorry boys, but we have a personnel surplus while the infantry is short. You have to go back where you came from." Disappointed, Norris was transferred to the 42nd Infantry Division at Camp Gruber, Okalahoma, for a short stay; then he was on his way again, this time to the ETO as an infantry replacement.

Norris had the boat trip, the hike across Omaha Beach, then interminable rides by rail and trucks across France and Belgium until he reached the 9th Infantry Division's rear CP. He felt himself lucky that he had joined a veteran outfit that had been fighting the Germans in Tunisia, Sicily and Normandy. The replacement was then passed down the line; the 47th's commander thanked the replacements for coming. There were a few words on keeping one's feet dry from a bushy-mustached lieutenant colonel at Headquarters, 3rd Battalion in Schevenhutte, and finally a clerk asked what he wanted to do in his new outfit. Norris told him that he had fired "expert" with the machine gun back in training. "Ah," the clerk said brightly, "you'll love M Company. Sometimes they serve real hotcakes for breakfast."

By this time, 1st Lt. Johnny Davis came by to pick up M's new replacement. "I'll show you around the 2nd Platoon which I lead," he explained as they picked their way between bombed out buildings, shell holes and piles of trash. It was getting dark by the time they had visited four dug-in machine gun positions where the crews told of their situation and that of the krauts. It was obvious to Norris that these men liked their leader. Later, Norris learned that Davis had been a member of the company since joining as a recruit at Ft. Bragg, N.C. He had been platoon sergeant and was commissioned from the ranks after the Cherbourg battle. The tour ended at a former German pillbox in the middle of Schevenhutte which had been a command center for part of the Siegfried Line back in the Hürtgen Forest. Now M's command post, it had been hit by the biggest shell the Germans had will no ill effects.

Schevenhutte lay at the tip of a salient with the forest coming up on three sides and the edge of a plain approaching the fourth or north side. The 3rd Battalion had been leading the regiment in early September when it found an unopposed way to the town through the Siegfried Line and thick woods.

(continued next column)

German civilians were still living in Schevenhutte when the 3rd Battalion, now out of gas for its vehicles, dug in and prepared for the inevitable counterattack.

"It was a beautiful place with flowers in pots at every window," Davis recalled, "Counterattacks started the next day and kept up until most of the buildings were knocked down or burnt out. Now it's quieter. They're probably saving up for a big push and we hope it will come elsewhere." The two men spent the night in the CP and the next day, Norris met another old timer, S/Sgt. Linus Vonderheide, one of the 2nd Platoon's two section leaders who, after examining Norris' machine gun knowledge, installed the new man as gunner of one of his guns.

Norris went up the ladder of enlisted ranks as casualties took their toll with the 3rd Battalion's advance through Bovenburg Farm, Frenzerberg Castle, the Bulge, Remagen bridgehead and the Ruhr valley. The battalion was on the Elbe river in contact with the Russian forces, when Capt. William H. Horan, now M Co.'s commander, promoted Norris to be the outfit's 1st Sgt. The end came on 7 May 1945 with news of Germany's surrender and orders for the 9th Division to move south to its sector of the American Occupation Zone in Bavaria. M Co.'s place in this sector initially was in a village called Schrobenhausen. Later it moved nearer Munich to guard large POW enclosure at Moosburg. Here, after Christmas 1945, 1st Sgt. Norris was shipped home.

By 8 February 1946, Norris was back with his wife and restarting civilian life. It did not last long. A friend who was reconstituting the local National Guard unit asked his help so Norris signed on. Shortly thereafter, when the U.S. Army asked him to take charge of its Huntsville Recruiting Office, he accepted. In February 1949, the soldier received a promotion to warrant officer with assignment to Ft. Lewis, Washington, where he ended up in F Co., 38th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division in the new position of unit administrator. This event commenced a long series of duty tours, including two in Germany and one in Japan with the 7th Infantry Division which concluded with war breaking out in Korea. He endured that war with the 7th and its close call when massive Chinese forces crossed the Yalu River and nearly trapped the Division before it escaped. It was a different Korea in 1961 when Norris returned to serve with the 1st Cavalry Division and then with Headquarters Eighth U.S. Army.

As a warrant officer, Norris climbed the promotion ladder for that rank ending in what was then its top grade. By this time Norris and Mabel had decided that he should retire with 27 years of service the year following his return to the U.S. He asked for and obtained assignment to Ft. Wolters, Texas and while there, they found the town of Burnett in Texas' "hill country" and bought their retirement home. Retired from the Army at only 48 years of age, Norris looked for another occupation and found it in a local savings and loan office. He learned banking, keeping at it until he became president of the firm. Similarly, the couple kept busy in the work of several of the community's Protestant churches and became acknowledged as community leaders. Willard died in 2007.

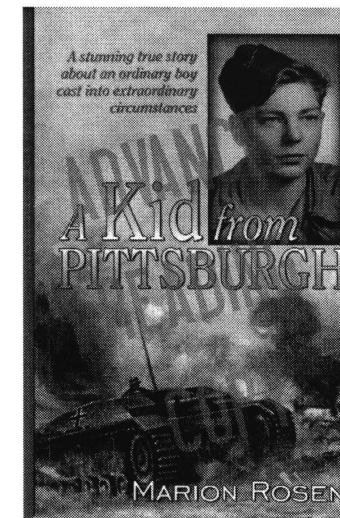
Contact: Mrs. Mabel Norris, [REDACTED]

The Literary Ninth

New Book Available

A Kid from Pittsburgh

By Marion Rosen
With Morris Rosen



A Kid from Pittsburgh is a stunning true story about an ordinary boy cast into extraordinary circumstances. At 17, Morris Rosen dreams of becoming an airplane mechanic, so he lies his age and enlists in the army. It seems like a logical move, but it is 1942 and the U.S. has just gotten in World War II. Men are needed at the front. As his story opens, Rosen is on a troop train loaded with men from the Ninth Division Artillery heading out of Casablanca to only God knew where. They are all new recruits with Rosen probably the greenest of the bunch, so it doesn't take long until he is hailed as a chronic screw-up. But Rosen trained at Fort Meade to be a radio operator, and the naïve kid from Pittsburgh is sent into action as a forward observer.

The train gradually lumbers across the hot sands of Morocco until it arrives at the site of Eisenhower's headquarters and the U.S. supply depot in Tebessa, Algeria. Without the benefit of infantry support, the artillery is sent up into the Atlas Mountains to defend the pass at Thala. The mission has suicide written all over it, but the Ninth is the only unit available to prevent the enemy from looting the American fuel and ammunition stock-piled at the depot. The battle at Thala is horrendous, but to everyone's surprise, the Ninth Division Artillery pulls off the first actual land victory in WW II.

With the victory at Thala bolstering morale, the men of the Ninth travel north through Africa, winning battles as they push toward the Mediterranean. Rosen receives his first Purple Heart in Sicily, but his service with the Ninth is riddled with mishaps, a court martial, and a captain who wants his hide. It is, in fact, the captain's fury that drums him out of the Ninth and, by chance, into the Third Division. He proves his worth during the invasion at Salerno by directing ship to shore naval gunfire.

The following two years are brutal; Rosen is again wounded during the stand-off at Anzio. He witnesses pain and the finality of death on the battlefields of Italy, but it doesn't compare to the horror unveiled as he assists with the liberation of the concentration camp at Dachau, Germany.

Don't miss this compelling story about a boy going of to war. Morris Rosen's incredible skirmishes during WW II evolve into a surprising triumph. The book at \$19.95 can be ordered directly from Infinity Publishing by calling toll-free (1-877-289-2665). It can also be ordered from most book stores such as Barnes & Noble or through Amazon.com and Walmart.com.

HISTORY ROAD

"The fighting was rough in the Hürtgen"

By John Celler



John Celler (90)
B Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

The fighting was rough in the Hürtgen. It rained continuously, always that rain day and night to add to the already present miseries. It drenched the shell shattered pines and the odor that you formerly associated with Christmas at home was now nauseating and their presence just meant death in the form of an enemy sniper that lurked behind them.

It was at a particular road intersection that later became known as the "Crossroads" that replacements came to fill the dwindling ranks. Some never reached their newly assigned units because of the deadly accurate artillery and sniper fire.

The Gerries had lodged themselves in two pillboxes at the road crossing and with perfect observation had command of the situation. It was after a dusk attack that neutralized one of the pillboxes that the kid first came to our notice. His first on the line experience was the searching of the prisoners that had been routed from the shelter. He was tall, clean cut, and enthusiastic, a trait not apparent in the battle tested men. All that had worn off with the screaming shells and missing faces of former buddies.

The next morning he was among the men sent out to set up a base of fire while another group of dough's flushed out the remaining fortification. The attempt failed and the eager smiling sweater clad kid from California who had said, "I go for this" didn't return. There isn't much thought given to the boys who don't return because maybe too many memories in this game isn't good.

Later that evening another attack was launched. Gains were measured in this sector in inches and some boys fell as they crawled from their foxholes. The progress was slow through the fallen boughs with your buddies around you dropping silently, victims of the deadly snipers who held the upper hand. It was during this attack that the kid was found lying on his side with an ugly hole in his head where he had been shot that same morning still wearing that familiar O.D. sweater. Looking on his quiet features you remembered his saying when asked his name, "Oh just call me Lucky."

Reprinted with permission from the author, John Celler
Sent in by Lisa Froug-Hirano

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 DIRECTLY**. For more information, call Bill Robey, toll free at 1-866-229-2377, pin #3322.

ROOM RESERVATION FORM

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____ 9th Div. Unit: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

SINGLE
499.00

DOUBLE
354.00

TRIPLE
305.00

QUAD
281.00

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

Officers and Board of Governors
August 2008-2009

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Henry G. "Red" Phillips, Association Historian

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



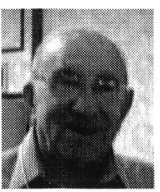
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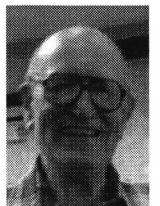
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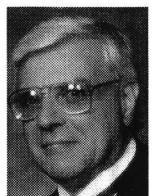


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George Brown

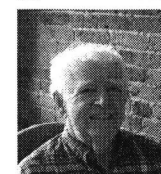
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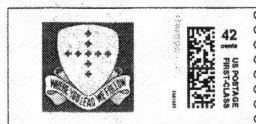
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The Ninth Infantry Division Association



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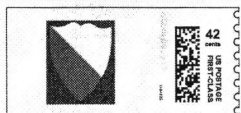
9th Medical Battalion



34th Field Artillery Battalion



39th Infantry Regiment



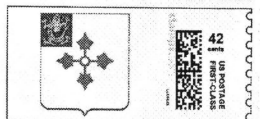
15th Engineer Combat Battalion



9th Military Police Platoon Headquarters Company



84th Field Artillery Battalion



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9th Signal Company



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