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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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1-1-2010

## The Octofoil, January/February/March 2010

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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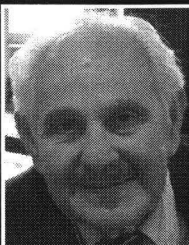
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# The Octofoil

Jan.-Feb.-Mar.,  
2010

Volume LXV, No. 1



President  
Joseph Maiale

## President's Message

The idea of turning over the affairs of the association to the sons and daughters has been communicated to other Board of Governors members and to date they are all in agreement. As I mentioned in my last message this topic will be discussed at our next reunion business and board meetings. The idea does have merit. The sons and daughters have done an outstanding job helping us continue to have reunions and their own auxiliary is very successful and runs like a well tuned machine. They are committed to promoting the legacy of the division, telling our stories and preserving our history for future generations. A case in point is the article about the successful accomplishment of installing a memorial plaque, in our honor, at the Peace Museum Bridge in Remagen, Germany. The plaque idea was proposed at our last board meeting in July. Congratulations, a job well done!

Give this turnover idea some thought and then call me, I want to hear from you personally. You can reach me at [REDACTED] until April 20th. After that call me at [REDACTED]. This is an important step and I want to know how you feel about this matter. Your thoughts matter so call me.

I am also pleased to announce that Paul Schumacher has agreed to fill the vacant board position due to the death of Emil Langer on January 15, 2010. We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to Emil's family. Emil was a faithful member of our association and served as our president in 1966, 1982, 1987 and 2007. He will be greatly missed.

Stay well and I hope to see you all at the reunion.

Joseph Maiale, President  
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

## Report of Secretary-Treasurer/Reunion Update

The reservations for the reunion are coming in slowly, much slower than I expected. In questioning some of the members, I find that there are several reasons for this. One, health is always a question, and some are waiting to the last minute to make plane reservations for the reunion because of this. Two, the economy has caused some financial problems. Three, some have said they are waiting for income tax refunds.

Because of these reasons I am going to extend the deadline for deposits from April 1 to May 1. This will give everyone an extra month. The final payment date will remain June 15. Make your reservations now as it is always easier to cancel one than it is to get a room at the last minute. I need to hear from several more members of the Board of Governors, so you guys please get your reservations in right away.

Other than that, things are going pretty well. The hotel is cooperating very well, the dinner theater is holding reservations for us for Saturday night and in general everything looks good.

### REMEMBER!!! MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!!!

Discussions have been continuing about the proposed idea by President Joe Maiale to turnover the affairs of the association to the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary. He and I have talked to all the Board of Governors members and they all support this idea. In order to accomplish this some preliminary work has been done. At our reunion this year an official vote has to be taken by the board to formalize what they have already expressed as their opinions in favor of this idea. George Brown, our Judge Advocate has agreed to write a proposed change to the bylaws and bring to the reunion which would be voted on at the business meeting by all attendees. Assuming there is a majority in favor of this change the next step would be to seek approval by vote of the entire membership. A ballot would be published in *The Octofoil* for all veteran members to cast their vote either for or against this change. This way everyone gets a chance to express themselves and not be left out. This is a most important step and everyone should respond.

The Sons and Daughters Auxiliary has for the past several years done all the heavy lifting to make sure our reunions are successful. They take care of the badges, stuff the handout bags, organize our Memorial Service, have wheelchairs available for those who need them, organize the raffle ticket sales and generally take care of all the necessary details so you don't have to worry about anything. They also purchase our Memorial Wreaths for our service at the reunion and the annual service in Worcester, Mass.

If you have questions or opinions about this change please call Joe Maiale or myself.  
(continued on page 3)

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

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## OUR MISSION

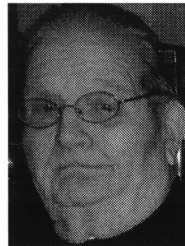
This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the *esprit de corps* of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as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



## THE NINETY'S CLUB

Here's your chance to join an exclusive, much loved, respected, 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 William Sauers, Editor.

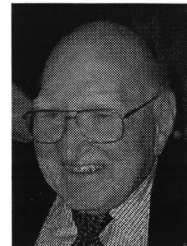
### New Ninety's Club Members



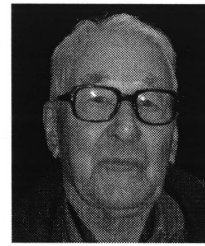
Harold L. Billington (90)  
Armington, Ill.



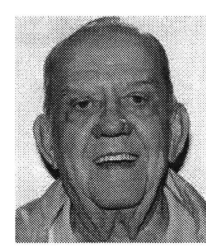
S. Bill Buemi (90)  
Cleveland, Ohio



Kenneth S. Jenks (90)  
Westbury, N.Y.



Jack F. Jewell (91)  
Lawrence, Kans.



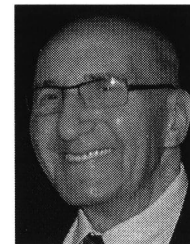
Arthur G. Lindquist (91)  
Hazelcrest, Ill.



Wallace O. Richardson (90)  
Franklin, Ind.



William J. Rybka (90)  
Raleigh, N.C.



Herbert Taff (90)  
Fort Lee, N.J.

### Club Members Photos Previously Published

Sabatino Agostinelli, Rochester, N.Y.  
Rodger E. Alsgaard, Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Gordon M. Binder, MD, Millbrae, Calif.  
Michael Belmonte, Oak Park, Ill.  
Anthony Cheney, Hunter, Kans.  
Wyett H. Colclasure, Salem, Ill.  
John Compel, MeKeesport, Pa.  
George H. Conley, Ellsworth, Maine  
Emil J. DeDonato, Dunnellon, Fla.  
Anton J. Dietrich, Richmond Hill, N.Y.  
Charles Duling, Wilmington, Del.  
Gino Felicelli, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.  
Jakie Grgurich, Novinger, Mo.  
Robert Griffith, Des Plains, Ill.  
Dr. Martin Gross, Coconut Creek, Fla.  
Joseph A. Gurli, Chelsea, Mass.  
James F. Hart Jr., Wilmington, Del.  
Loren Hunt, Carlinville, Ill.  
Edward G. Janosik, Springfield, Mo.  
Charles W. "Hoss" Johnson, Cambridge, Md.  
Joseph B. Kash, Glenside, Pa.  
Alton E. Le Duc, West Branch, Mich.  
James E. Leopold, Chicago, Ill.  
Albert Lipton, Flushing, N.Y.  
Allen Luce, Winneconne, Wis.

Pat J. Maisto, Shallotte, N.C.  
Dominic J. Martello, Metairie, La.  
Frank Meanor, West Boylston, Mass.  
Dwight Merrill, Dover Foxcroft, Maine  
Chester (Mike) Mickus, Fredericksburg, Va.  
William J. Nesta, Granada Hills, Calif.  
Ward O. Payne, Laguna Woods, Calif.  
George A. Pedrick, Jr., North East, Md.  
Carl Price, Hickory, N.C.  
Louis M. Prince, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Joseph Rappazini, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.  
Edward E. Rickert, Oak Forest, Ill.  
Charles Scheffel, San Antonio, Tex.  
Henry Shimkoski, Worcester, Mass.  
Clyde E. Shull, Upper Sandusky, Ohio  
Thelma Solar, Tucson, Ariz.  
Herbert Stern, Houston, Tex.  
William W. Tanner, Union City, Tenn.  
Walter Victor, Dawsonville, Ga.  
Col. John Westmiller, Chatham, Mass.  
Morton H. Wolk, Santa Ana, Calif.  
Alphonse J. Zenka, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Pat J. Zona, East Sandwich, Mass.

### Missing Photos

Donald E. Crass, Phelps, Wis.  
Carroll B. DeVoid, Williston, Vt.  
Grady Holman, Blakely, Ga.  
Andrew Kopack, Nazareth, Pa.  
Harold Schramm, New Milford, N.J.  
Col. Ralph Williams, Fort Pierce, Fla.  
Please send your recent photo to the editor  
ASAP!!!

### Ninety's Club Members

61 Veterans + 1 Widow = 62 Total Members

### (Secty-Treas. Report...continued from page 1)

This process does not involve giving away the association. It only means that we will have the means to perpetuate the association for many years. This year, 2010, is our 65th reunion. As far as I have been able to find out, we are the fifth oldest veterans organization in the country. The others are The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and the Jewish War Veterans. I think the Jewish War Veterans just celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2009. The mere fact that we have sons and daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren should guarantee our success in future years.

If you have a better idea, President Joe Maiale and myself urge you to contact one of us and express your opinion. We will never know unless we hear from you.

Speaking of getting older, check out the 90's Club. About 15 percent of our membership is now in the this club. We still have something over 425 veterans active in our association. Our oldest member is 97 and lives in Salem, Ill., and his son served in the 9th in Vietnam. So here is another family connection to continue our association. We are hoping that they will attend our reunion.

The notices about our reunion appeared in three major veteran magazines and have generated much interest in our association. I have heard from several veterans and have convinced some of them to join. One in particular, Jeremiah Ferguson, E Co., 39th Inf. Regt., is joining and planning to come to our reunion.

So on that pleasant note, I will close by saying:  
See you in Indianapolis

Bill Robey, Secretary-Treasurer and Reunion Chairman

### Operations de Liberation de la France Decision No. 341 Croix de Guerre Paris, 29 January 1945

- Major Howard F. Casey, 26th Field Artillery Battalion
- Major John W. Cattle, 84th Field Artillery Battalion
- Captain Phillip B. Emmons, 15th Engineer Battalion
- Captain Orville K. Fletcher, 39th Infantry Regiment
- Captain Preston O. Gordon, 39th Infantry Regiment
- Major Jack A. Houston, 9th Infantry Division
- Major William J. Hanks, 9th Infantry Division Artillery
- Captain James P. Ledbetter, 26th Field Artillery Battalion
- Major William A. Lucas, 34th Field Artillery Battalion
- Captain John V. Meiden, 84th Field Artillery Battalion
- Captain Jesse F. Niven, 47th Infantry Regiment
- Captain Charles Scheffel, 39th Infantry Regiment
- Captain Matty L. Urbanowitz, 60th Infantry Regiment
- Major Ralph I. Williams, 60th Field Artillery Battalion

(The above fourteen names were submitted by Charles Scheffel)

- Staff Sergeant Donald V. Hyde, 9th Medical Battalion

(Submitted by Mrs. Cynthia Hyde)

(The total number of men awarded the French Croix de Guerre now stands at 82. If you have information regarding anymore recipients please send to the editor.)

### 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

Walter and Ruth Victor in memory of Emil Langer

Mike and Ann Belmonte in memory of Roger E. Elmer

Ethel Smith in memory and honor of Sgt. John J. Smith, Anti-Tank Co., 39th Inf. Regt.

Leo V. Hess in memory of S/Sgt. James Crosby, D Co., 1st Platoon, 1st Section, 60th Inf. Regt.

Doris M. Elmer in memory of her husband Roger E. Elmer

Richard Beaumont in memory of Lt. Col. Cliff Painter

Herbert Taff sustaining member donation

M. Franklin Hudgins sustaining member donation

Lena Terricola in memory of her husband Constantine "Terry" Terricola

Jack and Nadine Collier in memory of Dottie Williams and BG Lewis E. Maness

Arno Heller sustaining member donation

Ervin and Lillian Walters in memory of Leo Fatlan

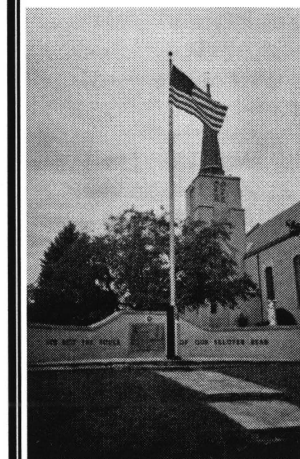
Jeremiah M. Ferguson sustaining member donation

### "Lest We Forget" Worcester Memorial Service Sunday, 10:00 a.m., October 24, 2010 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 have since gone to their eternal reward 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 Association 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 [redacted] Hotel reservations are on you own.



## 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

Albert J. Baccile B Co., 39th Inf. Regt.	Henry Endy	BG Lewis E. "Chip" Maness 2nd Bn, 47th Inf. Regt.
Col. Bernard A. Bennick M Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Leo E. Fatlan M Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Thelma M. Quinlan
John Celler B Co., 60th Inf. Regt.	Edwin E. Glover	Joseph E. Reedy D Co., 47th Inf. Regt.
Theodore F. Curless, Jr. E Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Carl H. Hull 2nd Bn., 60th Inf. Regt.	George Remaley 39th Inf. Regt.
Edward A. Custer B Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Emil Langer A Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Olido Starro G Co., 39th Inf. Regt.
Steven D'Angeli 9th Band	Francis J. Leo	Constantine (Terry) Terricola Hq.Btry., 84th FA Bn.
Roger E. Elmer G Co., 39th Inf. Regt.	Martina L. Maloney	Dorothy G. Williams

## TAPS LETTERS

### John Celler B Co., 60th Infantry Regiment

Dear honored vets,  
It is with extreme sadness and disbelief that I share the news that my very special friend, John Celler, passed away on March 1. He had a lot of life left but an undiagnosed infection was not treated in time. John loved being a part of the 9th ID, he loved his buddies, he loved reading *The Octofoil* and he was so proud that he wore his 9th ID cap everywhere. It is through John that I found the other members of Company B, 60th who have become my extended family. I am forever in his debt and connected through my very soul. I personally encourage each of you to make sure that your health care directives are not only known but in writing and that you designate someone to be your advocate in your time of need. Thank you all for being so important to John.

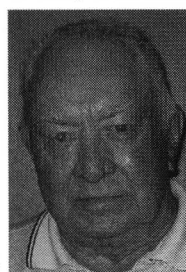
Signed, Lisa Froug-Hirano

### Theodore F. Curless, Jr. E Co., 47th Infantry Regiment

I just wanted to inform you that my uncle Theodore F. Curless, Jr. passed away on September 15, 2009. He has received *The Octofoil* from you. Let me know if I can give you any more information. Thanks.

Signed, Karen L. Duffey

### Edward A. Custer B Co., 47th Infantry Regiment



My father-in-law, daughter, grand-daughter and I attended his first ever reunion in Orlando in 2008. It was a wonderful experience for all of us and provided us with many memories. I am writing to let you know that my father-in-law passed away on December 26, 2009. He had been diagnosed with lung cancer in June. At that time the tumor was quite large. After talking with his doctor he decided not to consult an oncologist, have chemo or radiation. He was 88 and decided that he would rather

enjoy the time he had left rather than battle the affects of the treatments. The decision was entirely his but Ed (his son, my husband) and I were very happy with his decision. We took him to Florida for a visit with our daughter and her family in July. The trip turned out to be exhausting but once there he thoroughly enjoyed himself. After that we decided it best to stay close to home. In September he had a second CAT scan that showed the tumor had grown an inch in each direction and had invaded his vascular system. His doctor suggested that it was time to get hospice on board, which meant increased pain medication and no driving. We thought we would have a very difficult time telling him he could no longer drive, but I think he was actually relieved. My husband had retired the end of June so he told his dad he would take him wherever he needed to go. It gave them the opportunity to spend time together. Our daughter and granddaughter made a trip up in October. She and her two children came up for Christmas—our son-in-law could not get off from work. Ed and I took Knobby

(continued on page 5)

## TAPS LETTERS

### (Edward A. Custer...continued from page 4)

(my father-in-laws nickname) to a monthly Battle of the Bulge luncheon on December 16th and sat with Domenick Fiore. Domenick and Knobby had developed a wonderful friendship as a result of the luncheons and we were saddened when we learned of Teresa's death. Domenick had the information regarding the upcoming dedication at the Remagen Bridge which he shared with the group and he and Knobby talked about that. That was the day we started to really see my father-in-law decline. He was losing his appetite, starting to have difficulty swallowing and dealing with nausea. On Saturday, the 19th Ed went up to give his dad his pain medication around 11:30 p.m. and Knobby was fine, said good-night and that he'd see Ed in the morning. On Sunday, Ed went up earlier than usual because we had had quite a snow storm Saturday into Sunday. Once he got to his dad's he called me and said I should come up—we only lived about a minute walk from his dad. It was as though a switch had been thrown sometime between Ed's visit the night before and Sunday morning. Since his dad was already on hospice we called them because we knew we needed to start the morphine we already had. We were able to arrange for a hospital bed to be delivered on Monday, the 21st. Knobby had several bad days where he was combative but that calmed down. Ed and I started staying with him overnight from Sunday, the 20th until he passed away on Saturday, the 26th. Ed and I were with him when he passed away. We were and are so grateful that we never had to put him in a nursing home and that he, like my mother-in-law, was able to die in his own home.

Although we talked about trying to attend another reunion we knew that would be too difficult for Knobby. Looking back I am grateful now that I was able to seize the opportunity to take him to the Orlando reunion. Knobby always wore a baseball cap and had plenty of them. At his viewing we put several of them in the casket with him, among them was the one he bought at the reunion, he was always proud of his association with the 9th Infantry. My husband and I went to the Battle of the Bulge luncheon and we hope to stay connected with that fine group of people. I don't know that I will ever have the opportunity to be in the company of the wonderful 9th Infantry family again but please know that I will always be grateful for the short time we were connected. We were received with open arms and felt very welcomed. Thank you.

Warmest regards, Becky Custer

### Roger E. Elmer G Co., 39th Infantry Regiment

It is with great sadness, I must write to inform you of the death of my husband, Roger E. Elmer, Sgt., G Co., 39th Regt. He was buried January 12, 2010 with military honors.

Sincerely, Doris M. Elmer

### Roger E. Elmer

We are enclosing a check for the Memorial Fund in memory of Roger E. Elmer who was in the 39th Inf., "G" Company. Roger was an active member and passed away December 27, 2009. He leaves his wife, Doris and three sons and families.

Happy New Year - maybe will see you at the reunion  
Signed, Mike and Ann Belmonte

### Henry Endy

I would like to inform you that Henry Endy, Delray Beach, Florida, a 9th Infantry Division member, passed away on February 11, 2009. Thank you.

Signed, Caroline Sands

### Emil P. Langer A Co., 47th Infantry Regiment

It is with much sadness that I report to you the death of my dear uncle Emil Langer on January 15, 2010. He will be laid to rest on January 22, 2010 at the Norman Dean Home for Services in Denville, New Jersey

With respect, Joanne M. Riha

### Francis J. Leo

I am writing to advise you that my father, Mr. Francis Leo, a member of the 9th Infantry Division, died on February 13, 2010 in Barefoot Bay, Fla. after a year-long battle with congestive heart failure. He was 91 years old. Despite the ailment, he remained very active in the community until two weeks prior to his death.

Signed, Jack Leo

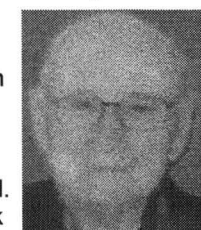
### Thelma M. Quinlan



Please take Aunt Thelma off your mailing list as she is no longer with us. We moved her to our house in October after the 2nd time being in the hospital. She had a very weak heart (because she had so much love for everyone). She very much enjoyed the newsletter you sent her, she often told us of different things that she read in it. Often asked her nephew Rick to read parts. She has been greatly missed yesterday, today, tomorrow and always.

Signed, Rick and Pam Moran

### Joseph E. Reedy D Co., 47th Infantry Regiment



Joseph Elwood Reedy, age 88, of Templeton, Pa. died Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at Armstrong County Hospital. He was born February 27, 1921 in Boggs Township, Armstrong County, Pa. He is survived by his wife Lois, two children and 3 grandchildren. Joe was our barber while in Cheriton, England.

Signed, Ronald Frank

### George Remaley 39th Infantry Regiment

George Remaley, 91 years old, died in January 2010. He lived in Donnelville Road, Natrona Heights, Pa.

Signed Ronald Frank

### Constantine "Terry" Terricola Hq. Btry., 84th Field Artillery Battalion

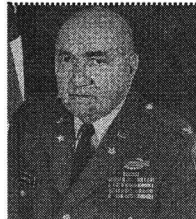
It is my sad duty to report the passing of my husband, Constantine "Terry" Terricola, 90 years old. My husband was a member of the Ninth, Headquarters Battery, 84th Field Artillery Battalion. He attended the Ninth Division reunions for many years, but in recent years, he was unable to travel due to his poor health. He always tried to attend Father Connor's Memorial Service weekend in Worcester, Mass. for many years. He was so proud of his association in the Ninth Division.

He was buried with full military honors February 10, 2010. His sacrifice and those of his generation will never be forgotten.

Sincerely, Lena Terricola

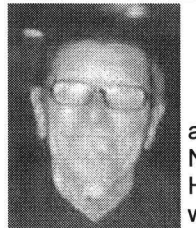


# TAPS OBITUARIES



**Colonel Bernard A. Bennick USA (Ret.)**  
**M Co., 47th Infantry Regiment**

On December 18, 2009 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret M. Bennick in 1981. He is survived by two daughters and one son; 5 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews, and many close friends. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

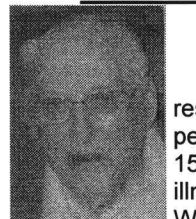


**John Celler**  
**1919-2010**

## **B Company, 60th Infantry Regiment**

John Celler, a Prince of a Man, passed away on March 1 at the age of 91. He was born in New York where his family owned a bakery in Hastings-on-Hudson. John's father died when he was 18 and he then took care of his mother and two sisters, never marrying. Gifted with his hands,

he became a master letterpress printer, and provided Stamford with first class printing services at John Celler-Printer, after returning from the war. John's 100 year old Pearl Printing Press was donated to Yale in 2007. John was a proud member of Company B, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division in the ETO. His company received the Presidential Unit Citation for gallantry in December 1944. John never forgot the slaughter in the Hürtgen Forest. He was awarded the Purple Heart, after being wounded by a German sniper on March 11, 1945, the Bronze Star and most revered, Combat Infantryman Badge. John loved the Mets and gardening. His always neat home and carefully planted and nurtured yard, especially his roses, were his pride and joy. John is survived by his older sister Mary, his angels on Earth, Sharon, Frank B., Jill C., Kelli A., those who loved him and helped him on the 3rd floor at Tandet and his most special "foxhole buddy" and dearest friend, Lisa. John's humor, wit, laughter and presence will be greatly missed. He was one of a kind. He was buried with full military honors.



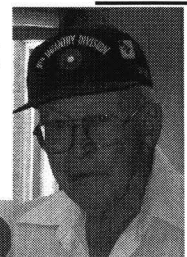
**Theodore F. "Ted" Curless, Jr.**  
**E Co., 47th Infantry Regiment**

Ted Curless, a lifelong resident of Brooklyn, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at his home after a long illness. Ted was a veteran of World War II, having served as second platoon runner of Company E, 47th Infantry of the veteran 9th Infantry Division. He served in five campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. Ted was wounded in the Remagen Bridgehead. Among his decorations are the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, Presidential Unit Citation, and the ETO Medal with five bronze stars. Ted was a rural mail carrier in Brooklyn for 28 and a half years and a substitute mail carrier prior to his regular time. He retired February 1, 1985, with 43 and a half years of creditable federal service, including his military time of two years and seven months. Ted was a life member of both the 9th Infantry Division Association and the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of Brooklyn Community United Methodist Church and National Rural Letter Carriers Association. Ted was an avid golfer for many years and acquired four holes-in-one. Ted is survived by a sister, June Parks; several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great nephews.



**Steven D'Angeli**  
**1918-2010**  
**9th Band**

Steven D'Angeli of Medford, Mass. passed away on January 15, 2010, at age 92, after a brief illness, surrounded by his loving family. Survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Esther (Santoro). Loving father of Lyn, Steven, Sylvia, Frank and Lisa. Also survived by eight grandchildren and three sisters. He was born in Lawrence, Mass. on January 2, 1918. He became a proficient trumpet player in his early teens and played professionally with his brothers in local clubs. Entered World War II in February 1941 as Private First Class; 9th Infantry Division. Fought in North Africa, Tunisia to Bizerte, then to Sicily, Normandy invasion, through France, Belgium and through Germany until the end of the war. Participated in historical battles in addition to Normandy: in the Sahara Desert against Germany's Field Marshall General Erwin Rommel, the Battle of the Bulge, the taking of the Bridge at Remagen. Was honored to be a member of the 9th Division Band that performed for most major political and military leaders of the Allied Nations. Received 7 Battle Stars, The Belgium Furragere, the French Government Diplome Award, a European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars and 1 Silver Service Star, World War II Victory Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Army Occupational Medal with Clasp, American Campaign Medal, Honorable Service World War II Lapel Button and a Good Conduct Medal. After the war, Steven forged a career in sales management with Reynolds Aluminum. After retirement, enjoyed his time with wife, children and grandchildren, who will miss him greatly.



**Leo Fatlan**  
**1922-2010**  
**M Company, 47th Infantry Regiment**

Leo Fatlan, 88, of Braidwood, Ill. passed away February 21, 2010, in Foley, Ala. Interment with full military honors will be in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood. He was born and raised in Gardner and was the son of Thomas and Emma Hansen Fatlan. He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in Africa, Italy and Germany from 1942-1945. Following his discharge from the Army, he operated Fatlan Trucking and Excavating in Gardner for 47 years. He enjoyed his family, hunting, gardening and wood-working. In later years, he enjoyed rehabbing a 1935 Ford Stake Truck. He was a 65 year member of the American Legion in Gardner and a life member of the VFW in South Wilmington.

Surviving are his wife, the former Gudrun "Goody" Fahrion; two sons, one daughter, two stepdaughters and two step-sons; 12 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

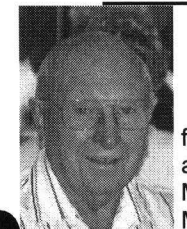
# TAPS OBITUARIES



**Carl H. Hull**  
**1917-2010**  
**Headquarters Company,**  
**2nd Bn., 60th Infantry Regiment**

Carl passed away peacefully on February 20, 2010, at home with his son Ron, by his side after a short illness. He was born

in Sioux Falls, S.D. He and his wife, Dolores moved to Tucson with their four sons in 1955. He then went on to retire from the United States Post Office in 1979. He graduated from Monogram High School in Sioux Falls in 1935 and went on to proudly enlist in the Army, and he was very proud of his service record and of the brothers with whom he served and he kept in touch with as many as he could over the years. He is the past Commander of the American Legion John P. Burns Post 36. He married Dolores Kolb in April of 1948, and raised four sons. He always said, he wasn't perfect, but he always gave it his best in everything he did, especially in being a kind and good husband and father. He and mom loved to travel and they traveled to many places in the United States, including Hawaii and throughout Europe. He is survived by his wife, Dolores and son. There are also many grandchildren and great-grandchildren that he enjoyed as often as possible. He will be missed by many friends and extended family members.

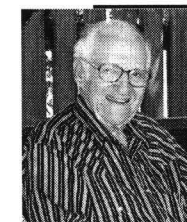


**Emil P. Langer**  
**1918-2010**  
**A Company, 47th Infantry Regiment**

Emil P. Langer, age 91, of Hollywood, Fla., formerly of Morris Plains and Franklin Park, passed away Friday, January 15, 2010 at Regional Memorial Hospital, Hollywood, Fla. Born in 1918 in Manhattan, N.Y., he was the son of the late Joseph and Antonia (Pivonka) Langer. Emil served his

country in the U.S. Army during WWII in the Ninth Infantry Division. He had worked as an accountant for many years, most recently with Pfizer.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Amelia (Wenzara) Langer; and son, Laurence Langer; and two brothers. He is survived by two nieces and a nephew; and many great-nieces and great-nephews.



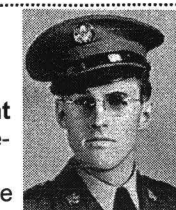
**Francis J. Leo**  
**1919-2010**

Francis J. Leo of Barefoot Bay, Fla. and former resident of Niagara Falls, N.Y., a retired office supervisor at C.J. Tower and Sons Customs Brokerage in Buffalo, N.Y. died February 13, 2010 in Fla. He was 91.

Born in Niagara Falls, he was a graduate of Niagara Falls High School and Bryant and Stratton Business School and served in the U.S. Army, 9th Infantry Division, in North Africa and Europe in World War II. He took part in the fourth day of invasions in Normandy with his honorable comrades, and served in northern Europe until VE Day 1945.

Returning from the war to Niagara Falls, he worked with the U.S. Postal Service, the Railway Express Agency and in 1960, he began to work at C.J. Tower at the Peace Bridge and Black Rock offices where he was a supervisor until retiring in 1980. Mr. Leo was also a member of the Greater Niagara Musicians Association since the late 40's as a sting bass musician in a number of small dance orchestras until the 70's. He was a parishioner of St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church in Barefoot Bay, Fla. and a member of the Respite Committee for Caregivers in that community. He was an avid golfer, playing every week in Fla. Into his 91st year, and recording three holes-in-one. He was also

(continued next column)



a staunch supporter of Notre Dame and a member of their "subway-alumni." Everyone who knew Mr. Leo respected him, and all felt a mutual respect for him.

Surviving are his dear wife of 63 years, the former Mary Nichele; one son and one daughter; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and thirteen God-children.

**Martina L. Maloney**  
**1921-2010**

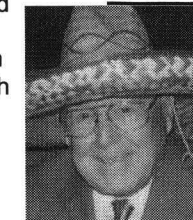
Martina L. Maloney, 88, a resident of Dewey Street in Bennington, died on Saturday morning, January 16, 2010, at the Village of Fillmore Pond following a brief illness.

Mrs. Maloney was born in Bennington the daughter of Joseph and Irene Betit LaRoche. She received her education in local schools and was a graduate of Bennington High School.

She married John H. Maloney on October 13, 1945, at Sacred Heart Church in Bennington. Mr. Maloney was elected county sheriff in 1947. He predeceased her in 2005. For many years, Martina had participated in the operation of the Bennington County Jail with her husband.

In earlier years, she and her husband had been avid golfers and members of the Mount Anthony Country Club for several years. She enjoyed playing cribbage and cooking. She also cooked for the inmates at the jail for many years.

Martina leaves her son and two daughters. She also leaves 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; five brothers and one sister; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.



**Brigadier General Lewis E. Maness, Sr.**  
**1920-2010**

## **2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment**

Brigadier General Lewis "Chippy" E.

Maness, Sr., 90 of Wellington, Fla. and Georgetown, S.C. passed away on Friday, March 5, 2010. Born in Georgetown, S.C., he was the son of William and Mabel (Rouse) Maness. Lewis graduated from Clemson University in 1941 with a

civil engineering degree. Affectionately known as Chippy, he was a star quarterback for the Tigers. He also was on the first team to win the Cotton Bowl in 1940 along side of star quarterback Banks McFadden under legendary coach Frank Howard. Upon graduation he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He married Mary Dartha Craig of Georgetown and reported to active duty. Maness served as platoon leader, company commander, and battalion commander for the 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. He participated in eight major campaigns with the 47th in the European Theater and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Bronze Star, French Croix de Guerre and the Purple Heart. Brigadier General Lewis E. Maness, Sr. served our great country honorably for 32 years. The General's memory will be cherished by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



## TAPS TRIBUTES

Leo Fatlan

**M Company, 47th Infantry Regiment**

(Heavy Weapons by Henry Gerard Phillips, 2007, page 123)

Leo E. Fatlan, a company headquarters driver, recollects of this time:

We entered Schevenhutte in the early evening of September 14th and set up the company CP in a tavern. It had a large, stone-fenced courtyard fronting the road. Paralleling the road on its far side was a small stream backed by a wooded hillside. My jeep had a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a pedestal. I parked next to the stone fence covering the road to the rear and still had good overhead clearance for antiaircraft fire.

The next morning before daylight, I was on guard by my jeep when all hell broke loose. Shelling and small arms fire was coming from the woods across the road. I got up on my jeep behind my .50 caliber machine gun and began spraying the woods. I heard screaming so I knew I was getting results even though I was exposed from the waist up. A potato masher grenade came over the wall and exploded. Fragments peppered my back, but I could still move everything and kept firing until I was shot in the head and the lights went out.

When I woke up I thought I was in heaven. I was in a bed and an angel in white was working on me. She told me I was in Southampton, England, and about to have surgery. In November, after I recovered and went back, I found the company still in Schevenhutte. I learned that someone dragged me back into the cellar of the command post where the wounded were gathered. One of the German attackers had gotten down there, but one of our wounded still had a weapon and killed him. We were evacuated in an armored half-track with a tank escort.

Note: Letter, Leo E. Fatlan, Braidwood, Ill., 8/6/2000, copy in author's files. PFC Fatlan was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal for his initiative and alone delivering "such an intense and effective fire on the assaulting enemy as to repel the attack."

(Reprinted by permission of the author)

## CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS

### FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

**Daytona Beach Reunion:** Get ready, get set and let's go to the 2010 Florida Chapter Reunion on April 28, 29, 30 with a departure date on May 1. All preparations have been made. The Hospitality Room will be ready for those who will arrive a day early. You should have received the mailing around March 18. If not, contact Emil who will send you another set. Please send in your order so that it is received by April 15th so that we may give the hotel, the restaurant and other places a list of people attending. We welcome any member of the National Organization to join us and any guests of the Florida Chapter membership. Phone: [REDACTED]

Emil De Donato

**Dues:** The Florida Chapter dues year starts April 1 and ends March 31. Some of you will receive a notice included within the reunion mailing. Please respond with the information on the "Dues Reminder Sheet." At the 2008 chapter meeting in Orlando, a motion was made whether to continue collecting dues. After discussions were held, a vote to continue collecting dues was unanimously approved. Dues are needed to buy postage, buy office supplies and miscellaneous expenses. Officers receive no compensation.

**Membership Roster:** We will proceed to update the membership roster shortly after receiving returns from the delinquent notices.

### News From Our Members

**Lula Winningham:** In a lengthy phone conversation Lula informed us that she is doing real well after her battle against cancer that she went through while her husband Cletus was living. Cletus died on June 18, 2008. He had been ill for several years. Lula took care of him at home for over two years even though she was undergoing treatments for her cancer. After the demise of Cletus, their nephew is helping out with the house chores while living with Lula. When asked whether she and her nephew might attend our reunion, Lula answered that there might be an outside chance that they will attend. We thank the Good Lord that Lula is well and that she remains in good health.

**Wally Richardson turns 90:** Welcome to the 90's Club. Wally served with Company A, 47th Infantry Regiment. He was awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster during his service in WWII. He carries a piece of metal lodged in his cheek from an explosion of a German 88 mortar shell. He was wounded twice...the second time nearly killed him. The steel sliver near his jaw is a reminder of the many battles that he and his comrades of Company A fought. Despite his age and condition, Wally remains a regular at the Greenwood, Indiana VFW Post that he helped start. He plays an active role in his community by helping to sponsor sport leagues and provides honor guard duties for burial's at veteran funerals. We hope to see him again at our coming reunion.

**Arnold Tomanek:** We were sorry to learn that Arnold is now restricted to a wheelchair. In talking to his wife, Louise, Arnold has been failing during the past year. He remains at home and is being well taken care of. Louise and Arnold attended many Florida Chapter reunions. Our hopes and prayers are being offered for him to get back to good health.

**Dolores Van Der Poel:** Word from husband Chuck stated that Dolores stroke condition remains the same while recuperating in a nursing home close to their home. Chuck is busy doing double duty by maintaining house chores and daily visits with his wife. We hope and pray that she recovers enough to return back home.

**Brigadier General Lewis Maness:** After a long illness, Gen. Lewis "Chip" Maness died on March 5, 2010. Funeral services were held on March 16 at the Palms West Funeral Home in West Palm

(continued on page 9)

## CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS

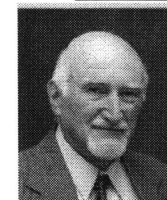
(Florida Chapter ...continued from page 8)

Beach, Fla. He was interred at the South Florida National Cemetery. Gen. Maness was a life member of the Florida Chapter. Both he and his wife, Mary (deceased), attended many Florida Chapter reunions. During the invasion of Africa and throughout the eight campaigns, General, then Major Maness, commanded the 2nd Battalion of the 47th Infantry Regiment. His presence at our meetings will surely be missed. May eternal light shine upon his soul and may he rest in peace, Amen.

**Faye Moser:** In an email, Faye stated that her husband, Ira, was improving steadily on his bout with cancer and if the doctor says it's okay for him to travel from his home in King, Georgia, they will join us during the coming reunion. Good luck Ira and God Bless.

### News and email wanted

Please send any news for the next issue of *The Octofoil* and especially your email address if you have one to: Emil J. De Donato, [REDACTED]



Marv Levy

### GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

The New York Chapter had no meetings in January and February. Ninth men hunkered down during the severe snowstorms and howling nor'easter while waiting for the spring meeting in March, 2010. In the meantime this scribe had contact with many of our members.

Joe Charvat reported that he and wife Betty were displaced from their home in Lynbrook for six days due to power outage caused by the horrific nor'easter that pummeled the New York area Saturday, March 13, 2010. Tony DeRobertis writes he is okay in Stroudsburg, Pa. Anton Dietrich says Charlotte is doing well after having cataract surgery on both eyes. Ed Harris says he's generally alright. Joe Killen missed serious damage to his home when his large tree fell and landed on a neighbor's car and house during the March storm. Yours truly just turned 85, and Barbara is still teaching piano. Esta LiBretto says she's busy with her grandchildren in Texas and knitting in her spare time. Al Lipton has mobility and eye problems. Bill Muldoon just celebrated his 85th birthday and he and Joan are awaiting Bill's second cataract operation. Joe and Sadie Maiale are basking in Florida sunshine until April. Marie Quinn is reported busy working with her local Senior Citizen Center.

Carl Winter, formerly of Merrick, N.Y., notified me he is wheelchair bound, and is now living with his daughter in Raleigh, N.C. Tony and Viola Varone and daughter Michelle are holding their own. Al and Genevieve Zenka are also doing the best they can.

If you are a New York Chapter member and your name isn't mentioned here please contact me so I can include you in the next report.

The next chapter meeting will be on Friday, March 19 at 1 P.M. in the Franklin Square Library, Franklin Square, Long Island, N.Y.

### New Member

**FLASH!!!** The New York Chapter will welcome a new 9th Infantry Division Association member at this meeting. He is Arnold Heller of Rego Park, Queens, N.Y. Arnold was in Div. Hdqs., then 39th, Co. K, from North Africa and Sicily to St. Lo in Normandy. Until recently he never knew the association existed.

Marv Levy, Recording Secretary

### LADIES CORNER

Now that "spring has sprung" our thoughts should be on the next reunion in July. Send in your deposits for the reunion to Bill Robey. Send checks for the Ladies Auxiliary membership and renewal of dues to Jean Geary. See page 20 for our membership application to accompany your renewal. Make sure the check is made payable to Ladies Auxiliary Ninth Infantry Division.

Our annual luncheon is \$17.00 and the business meeting will follow in the hotel. The room location is yet to be determined. We should know its location by the time of the next issue of *The Octofoil*. The cost of the luncheon includes the food, tax and gratuity. You can send all in one check to Jean made payable to Ladies Auxiliary Ninth Infantry Division. Please confirm your attendance with Jean as soon as possible so that she can make the arrangements.

Jean and Henry Geary were in Remagen, Germany for the dedication of a bronze plaque at the bridge on March 8. I am sure William and Terry will have a more detailed report within this *Octofoil*, but Jean has expressed her thoughts as well as follows:

Henry and I made the trip to Remagen, Germany to participate in the dedication of the 9th Infantry plaque which was installed on the bridge tower. We were invited to the German ceremony on Sunday, March 7 and although neither of us speak any German, it was a very impressive ceremony. There was a dedication of beautiful wreaths placed just below all the plaques on the bridge tower. The one for the 9th was on Monday, March 8 and a job well done and presented by William Sauers and Terry Barnhart. This was accomplished by all the help from the other members of this committee, even if they could not be present. We were also honored by some very special guest speakers at the dedication. So thanks to all who worked on this dedication for all their efforts, it was a great event. I'm sure there are Germans as well as Americans still holding bad feelings, but on our whole trip, we were treated with respect while with the group, and well as when we were by ourselves no matter where we went. The plaque is very beautiful, and we hope someday you will be able to get to see it other than on a picture. Henry and I are proud that we could be there to represent the Old Reliables.

On another note, if you are attending the reunion, John Sabato will be including a picture of your husband on your registration badge. If you would like to have this done just provide John with a copy of the best photo you have, preferably one of him in uniform (or at least a good photo from that time period). You can email it to him at: [REDACTED]

The best photos would be portrait type (just head and shoulders) but John can work with whatever photo you have that is clear enough. Please send your photos to John before coming to the reunion, he needs time to properly enter them into his computer for the correct size and color. Sending your photo early will guarantee your badge will be ready when you arrive for registration.

Please keep in touch with your organization by attending the reunions and our meetings. We need your input on how we can make our meetings more enjoyable. All suggestions will be appreciated. Your officers need your help. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Judy Goldsmith

President Ladies Auxiliary of The Ninth Infantry Division



Judy Goldsmith  
President  
Ladies Auxiliary

Where you once were, you are no longer...  
... but you will be where ever we are.

With heavy hearts but grateful spirits,  
we say goodbye to our beloved...

**Dorothy Girtman Williams**  
1922 - 2009

We grieve the loss of our wife, mother, grandmother...

Joseph H. Williams Sr.  
Joe and Claudia Williams  
Linda and Pat O'Neal with Haley and Patrick

Celebrating a Beautiful Life  
Saturday Nov. 21, 11 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
118 East Monroe Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Private Family Service  
Saturday Nov. 28, 2:30 p.m.  
Girtman Cemetery  
Hazelhurst, GA



# Ludendorff Bridge-65th Anniversary Commemorations Peace Museum Bridge at Remagen, Germany

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010

The 65th anniversary of the events surrounding the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany were somewhat different than in the past. The City of Remagen traditionally has a commemoration ceremony on March 7 to honor the arrival of the 9th Armored Division and the capture of the bridge on this date in 1945. It was also the commemoration of the opening of the Peace Museum 30 years ago by founder Mr. Hans Peter Kürten. At this year's commemoration a contingent of 20 soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion based in Schweinfurt, Germany attended. They brought a foot-long piece of railroad track from the bridge that was taken as a war souvenir by the 9th Combat Engineer Battalion. There were about 200 people from Remagen and the local area, Belgium 12e Bataillon De Fusiliers veterans, city and museum officials, and a contingent of German soldiers based in Andernach, Germany.

Speakers included Mr. Kürten and Herbert Georgi, Remagen mayor. Mr. Heinz Schwarz talked about the bridge's capture from his perspective as a teenager living in Remagen in 1945. Mr. Ekkehard Strobel talked about his father, Major Herbert Strobel, one of the bridge's officers in charge of defense. Major Strobel and three other German officers were executed by Hitler for allowing the bridge's capture. He discussed how difficult it was for him and his family to clear his father's name through the German court system after the war. After the remarks by the speakers the group relocated to the bridge towers where several wreaths were laid to honor all those who fought here.

Our U.S. delegation of association veterans, family and friends were invited to attend. While the ceremony was conducted in the German language it was nonetheless inspiring and dignified. We are very grateful for the invitation to attend this ceremony and interact with all the other guests.

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010, Memorial Plaque Dedication Ceremony

Initial hopes for a beautiful day were dampened when we arose on Monday, March 8 to find a cold and cloudy day before us. There was a faint hint of snow in the air early in the morning, but fortunately nothing came of it. Perhaps it was fitting because 65 years ago to the day the weather was similar when the first units of the division began crossing the Ludendorff Bridge. However, by noon the clouds dissipated and the sun shone brightly although still cold.

The group of attendees included veterans Neil Aberegg, Charles Aldieri, Winston Campbell, Henry Geary, Charles Illsley, Jack Jewell and Paul Schumacher who along with family members, friends, U.S. Army representatives, Remagen and museum officials totaled about 50 people when we met for lunch at the Brauhaus restaurant along the Rhein Promenade. Each veteran was given a specially designed name tag to wear to ensure their visibility. After all, it was their day to be recognized. Midway through lunch, seven soldiers of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command Color Guard, five soldiers of the USAREUR Band Brass Quintet, four soldiers from the 15th Engineer Battalion and the U.S. Forces Liaison Office staff received specially designed thank you gifts. Their attendance and participation gave special meaning to our plaque dedication ceremony.

Following lunch the group hurried over to the Rheinhalle where our ceremony was to begin at 2:00 p.m. A program of events had been prepared and was distributed. By the start time the crowd had swelled to about 200 people. Belgium 12e Bataillon De Fusiliers veterans had arrived, other friends and relatives, Remagen city officials and museum representatives, active duty German military soldiers from Andernach, Germany, citizens of Remagen and the local area, the local press and Armed Forces Network reporters were on hand.

The ceremony started promptly with a welcome address by Mr. Kürten. The 21st TSC color guard posted the colors followed by the brass quintet playing the German and United States Anthems. Major Louis Deltufo then gave the invocation address. Colonel Jeffrey W. Dill, U.S. Army Garrison Commander was the keynote speaker. He reflected on what it meant for our honored veterans to charge forward in the face of danger, mustering courage and discipline and seizing opportunities as they went. "The soldiers charged forward on the cold, brittle bridge not knowing that in 10 days the entire bridge would collapse. They charged forward not knowing that in four months, that victory would be declared. As a commissioned officer of infantry, I recognize the sacrifices those brave men must have made charging forward," Dill said. He also reminded us that 354 men of the division gave their lives expanding the Remagen Bridgehead. Lieutenant Colonel David Hurley, commander of the 15th Engineer Battalion based in Schweinfurt, Germany reflected upon his units' historical linkage to the battalion of World War II. "Everything we are in the Army today is thanks to our veterans and their example of duty and sacrifice," Hurley said. Following his remarks the brass quintet played the U.S. Army Song and many joined in singing it verses. Dr. Andrew Denison, director of Transatlantic Networks, a research group located in Königswinter, Germany, spoke about our shared democratic way of life and how Germany and the U.S. are friends and allies.

The assembly was asked to relocate outside to the bridge towers and was led down the walk by the color guard. Once seated the assembly was addressed by William Sauers. He thanked the Sons and Daughters Memorials/Plaque Committee whose members include Terry Barnhart, Arlene Silver, Bette Prochaska, Mary Cooper, Gail Eisenhauer, Janet Schnall, John Sabato, Roger Przybylski and William Sauers. The committee worked extremely well together to make this plaque a reality. He also thanked Mr. Kürten and Mr. Kurt Kleemann for their generosity in mounting our plaque. Terry Barnhart spoke about the challenge of designing, manufacturing, gaining approvals and finally shipping the plaque to the museum. Terry and William then unveiled the plaque to rousing applause by the audience. Major Deltufo returned to give the benediction. The brass quintet played the 9th Infantry Division March; no one had ever heard the music so this was a complete surprise. Taps was played and the color guard retired the colors officially ending the ceremony.

Everyone gathered around the plaque for a closer look and several rounds of pictures were taken along with many conversations. The group returned to the Rheinhalle for refreshments hosted by the City of Remagen. During this time some of the veterans were interviewed and their experiences were recorded by Dr. Denison and Ralf Klodt.

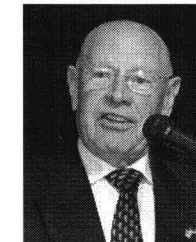
The dinner hour was fast approaching and a smaller group decided to meet back at the Brauhaus. History was made this day and it will be recorded for future generations of descendants to reflect upon the events of the Remagen Bridgehead Expansion during March 8-24, 1945.

William Sauers



Headquarters and Headquarters Company  
9th Engineer Battalion

March 7, 2010



Hans Peter Kürten  
Founder

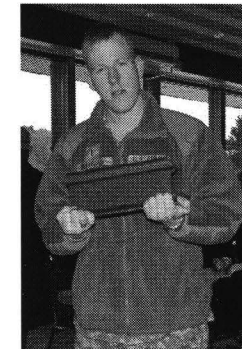


Kurt Kleemann  
Curator

Friedensmuseum Brücke von Remagen



Procession with wreaths marching to the bridge towers



2nd Lieutenant Michael Sullivan  
and the historic piece of track

## Ludendorff Bridge 65th Anniversary Commemorations



Wreaths were laid by German military, 9th Engineer Battalion and  
Belgium 12e Bataillon De Fusiliers veterans

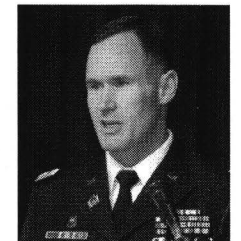


Colonel Jeffrey W. Dill

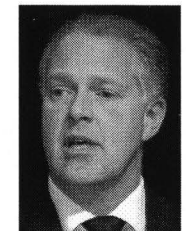
March 8, 2010



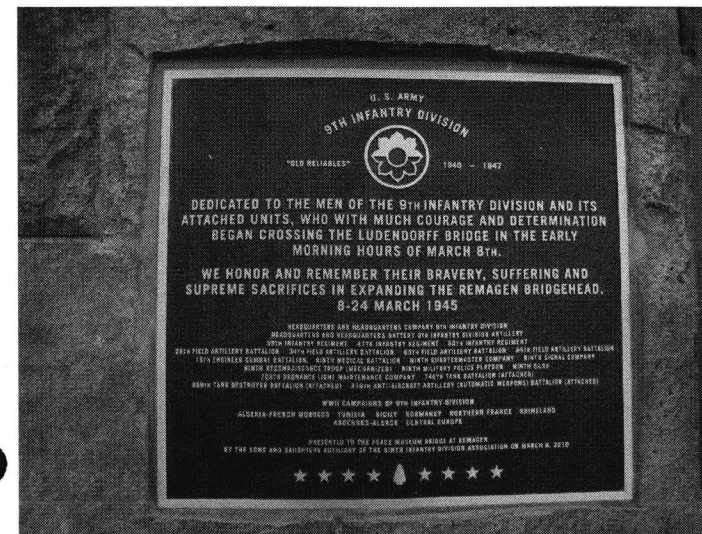
L to r: Winston Campbell, Charles Illsley, Jack Jewell, Charles Aldieri, Neil Aberegg,  
Henry Geary, Paul Schumacher.  
Wreath donated by Belgium 12e Bataillon De Fusiliers



Lieutenant Colonel David Hurley



Dr. Andrew Denison



21st Theater Sustainment Command Color Guard  
L to r: SSG Deval Blackwood, SPC Justin Stern, PFC Lynford Noriega, SSG Derrick Felix, SGT  
Darell Eastern, SPC Jansey Comeaux; standing behind PFC Noriega is SFC Diletta Taylor

Photos courtesy of: Paul Guaglione, Ralf Klodt, Dave Melancon and Kathy Sauers





Members of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command Color Guard and USAREUR Band enjoying lunch with the veterans.



21st TSC Color Guard leading the assembly to the bridge towers.



Terry and William unveiling plaque



Restored U.S. Army vehicles on display outside Rheinhalte provided by Mr. Manfred Stadler from Weissenthurm, Germany



Benediction  
Major Louis Deltufo



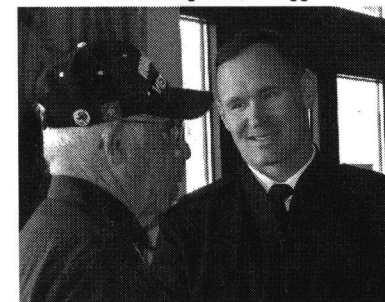
Interviewing Neil Aberegg



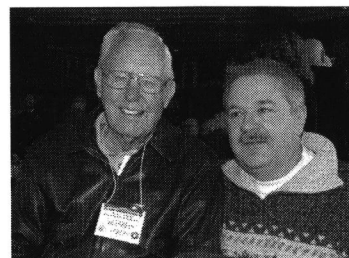
Charles Aldieri and Whit Blanchard



Jack Jewel, Steve Steininger and  
SPC Ryan Panosh, 15th Engineer Bn, Soldier of the Year



Charles Illsley and LTC David Hurley



Winston Campbell and Belgium veteran



USAREUR Band Brass Quintet  
L to r: SFC Christopher Hite, SPC Alan Page,  
SGT Gregory Edwards, SGT Sam Ghormley,  
SGT Ryan Bullard playing Taps



Plaques  
9th Infantry Division, 9th Armored Division,  
78th Infantry Division, 99th Infantry Division and  
12e Bataillon De Fusiliers



Henry Geary, LTC David Hurley and  
Paul Schumacher



Retiring the colors

## MAIL CALL

Richard Beaumont

F Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

In the last edition of *The Octofoil* you listed all the ones to receive "Croix de Guerre." One Elmer Bellotti was one I knew.

I must say there was no finer soldier than he. On January 3rd we were set to take Konzen, but both he and the Lt. were hit in the legs before we got started. They ordered me with the 300 radio to go into the town across 100 yards of open field-no one took a shot at me. I could not believe it!

Signed, Richard Beaumont

## MAIL CALL

Arno Heller

Enclosed please find my application for membership in the 9th Inf. Assn. I am enclosing some pictures which might be of interest to the Assn. Just recently I received the Jubilee Medal for my service in Normandy and more recently received the French Legion of Honor Medal at a beautiful ceremony at the French Consulate here in New York City.

Today I received *The Octofoil* too bad I never knew about your organization. I found it very informative and it brought back many memories. I have one question, in the article about Gen. Eddy it was mentioned that the 9th received a "Unit Citation." I never received it or knew about it. Is it possible to receive this citation at this late date? If so, how do I go about it? I served in the 39th from Tunisia to Sicily to England to Normandy.

Sincerely, Arno Heller

## SEEKING INFORMATION

Joe Cordova

Joe's brother, Staff Sergeant Manuel L. Cordova, served in L Company, 47th Infantry Regiment. As best he remembers, his brother was at the Remagen Bridge at some time. He later was captured, but was only a POW for 5-6 weeks before being liberated. His brother was not prone to talking about the war and his experiences. Today, we would say PTSD. His brother was killed in an auto accident about 5 years after getting out of the Army. Joe saw our reunion ad in the Legion magazine and desires to find out some history about the 47th and L Company. Naturally, it would be great if one of your "brothers" in the Octofoil association remembered a Cordova.

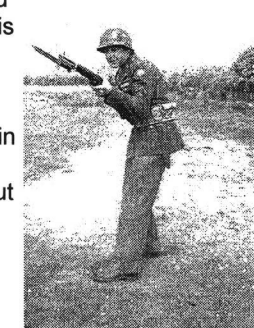
My request is that you query your cohorts to see if any can shine some light on the subject for Joe. I know he would greatly appreciate it. I enjoyed talking with him and hearing about his experiences. Joe was in school during WWII (just like me), so he did not serve in that war

Email from Janet Casanave

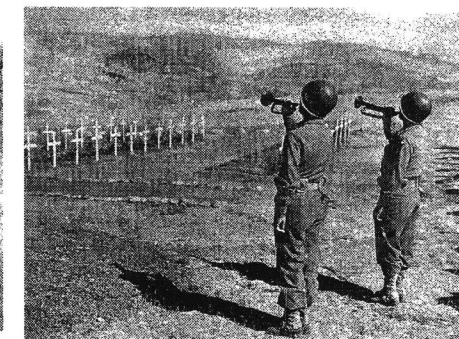
Monty McDaniel

I was wondering if you could put these pictures in *The Octofoil*? The picture was probably taken in November 1942 after the battle for Port Lyautey, was over. I can identify the soldier in the front row as Karl (Molotov) Warner. Note the two pair of field glasses around his neck, something he was known for keeping with him. I assume all these men served in the 60th Infantry, Company G. I included another picture of Karl Warner standing by his tent with the field glasses. This picture was taken from a color video after the Port Lyautey fighting was over.

Monty



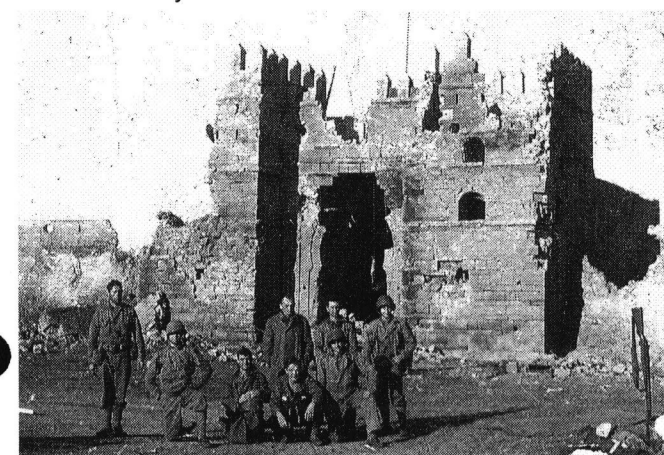
Arno Heller in England  
1943-44



39th Inf. cemetery near Troina, Sicily 1943



Col. Flint receives the DSC from Gen. Patton in Palermo, Sicily 1943





## Lt. Gen. Manton S. Eddy—Patton's Right Hand Man

By Jim Sudmeier

(Ed. Note: Continued from Oct.-Nov.-Dec., 2009 issue)

**September 15, Liberation of Nancy.** With barely enough gasoline, Eddy conducted a brilliant ten day campaign to capture Nancy, population 200,000, the capital of Lorraine, bisected north and south by the Moselle river. With his 35th Infantry and 4th Armored on the south, and his 80th Infantry on the north, Eddy executed a daring double envelopment of the city, snapping shut the pincer east of the river and entering the streets on September 15.

Gen. Eddy visited his far-flung divisions virtually every day, sometimes by light aircraft, but mostly in his fast-moving jeep sporting a .50 caliber machine gun, and driven since the early days in North Africa by the trusty Corporal Perry. The machine gun was normally manned by the general's aide-de-camp since taking over the XII Corps, Captain Ben H. Hardaway III, a sportsman, VMI graduate, and nephew of his wife, Mamie. Driving the back roads in combat situations sometimes got them into trouble.

As Hardaway tells it, one day Gen. Eddy's jeep, with Patton's jeep right behind, came screeching to a halt as a train pulled out in front of them and stopped, blocking the way. "Hardaway, shoot the son of a bitch!" yelled Patton. Climbing onto the locomotive with .45 drawn, Hardaway's point was soon grasped by the ashen-faced civilian engineer, who quickly threw the engine into reverse.

**Silver Star.** Both Eddy and Hardaway were awarded the Silver Star for gallantry during the Nancy campaign manifested in repeated visits to front lines along the Moselle, where they were often subjected to severe bombardment from German artillery and sniper fire.

**September 19-29. Defeating German Armor.** After the fall of Nancy, the Germans wasted little time with powerful counterattacks by the Fifth Panzer Army in the rolling hills east of Nancy, perfect for tank warfare. Due to superior guns and thicker armor, German tanks could knock out our Shermans from over a mile, whereas a Sherman had to close within a half a mile to kill a medium German tank frontally. However, through superior mobility, numbers, and tactics field improvised by Eddy's 4th and 6th Armored Divisions, the Germans were sent packing.

The 4th in particular distinguished itself in classic tank battles at places like Arracourt and Juvelize, led by the dashing, popular Maj. Gen. John P. Wood. This is also where the cigar-chomping, baby-faced Lt. Col. Creighton Abrams became legend. The battalion commander who led from the front had seven Sherman tanks, all named "Thunderbolt," shot out from under him during the war. Later he became leader of U.S. forces in Vietnam and Army Chief of Staff. After his death the Army's main battle tank was named in his honor.

**September 30. Another close call.** Gen. Eddy was meeting his various regimental commanders in the front room of a village house. A volley of German artillery came in, and one shell landed about 15 feet from the door, killing his longtime driver and bodyguard, Cpl. Perry, and a staff photographer. The meeting moved to the basement. Did this event cloud Eddy's judgment, as first suggested by Patton, when he ordered a pull-back of his troops? Eddy quickly reversed his orders, admitted the mistake, for which Patton praised him, and vowed in his diary not to repeat such an error.

**November 8. The November Offensive.** Most of October was spent by the Allies resupplying for one final push before winter set in. Patton was itching to begin the race to Berlin, especially so as to beat his despised British counterpart, Field Marshall Sir Bernard Law Montgomery.

Weeks of rainy weather in Lorraine had turned worse. The ground was a sea of mud and the Seille River on the night of November 7 was at 100 year flood stage. With air support impossible, and rivers too wide to bridge, Gens. Eddy and Grow (commander of his 6th Armored) came to see Patton in the pouring rain seeking a 24 hour postponement. Patton, who was praying, and too nervous to sleep, told them the attack would go ahead as scheduled, according to his diary and Eddy's too, which said "the General was very nice and I said I was well justified."

In his memoir written just before his death in a freak, low-speed auto crash in late 1945, Patton changes the story for self-aggrandizement at Eddy's expense: "...Generals Eddy and Grow came to the house and argued with me to hold off the attack...I asked them whom they wished to name as their successors...They immediately assented and, as usual, did great work." Patton had sometimes used the name your successor treatment on subordinates, e.g. the veteran Maj. Gen. Lucian Truscott in Sicily, but not on Eddy on this occasion. Regrettably, this fictitious firing threat was the only mention of Gen. Eddy's role in WWII by the popular storyteller, Stephen Ambrose in his "Citizen Soldiers," Simon & Schuster, New York, 1997, p. 162.

(continued next column)

**December 2. Firing of P. Wood.** Gen. P. Wood was one of Patton's old friends, West Pointers from '09 and '12 respectively. Wood had performed brilliantly as Commander of the 4th Armored (the only Armored Division which would receive a Distinguished Unit Citation), but he was opinionated, temperamental, overprotective of his men, and sometimes insubordinate, especially to Gen. Eddy whom he viewed as an old style infantry doughboy, not expert enough on armored warfare to command the elite tankers.

Largely due to the muddy ground, where tanks were primarily confined to the highways, and thus lost all maneuverability and surprise (the very conditions Gen. Eddy had argued to forestall), by November 18 the 4th had suffered 1,063 battle casualties, including 202 KIA. Wood was non-functional and close to a nervous breakdown. Patton wanted him out, but despite the bluster, seldom fired anybody. The job of firing P. Wood fell to Eddy, who had to endure the resentment of many of his tankers. Under new leadership, however, the 4th soon sprang back to life. By December 19 the XII Corps had breached the Maginot Line and was knocking on Germany's door in the Saar Basin.

**December 20-January 17. Diversion to Bastogne.** Spoiling the Allied march to Berlin was Hitler's untimely counterattack of December 16 through the Ardennes Forest with 36 divisions in what would become the largest land battle ever fought by the U.S. Army, the "Battle of the Bulge." The speedy redeployment by the Third Army of most of its divisions some 100 miles northward in 2 to 3 days was nothing short of spectacular. Gen. Eddy contributed significantly to the contingency planning, and had already repositioned his forces when the order arrived. On December 26 it was Eddy's veteran 4th Armored, although temporarily in another Corps, that broke through the snowy landscape to the surrounded 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne. Eddy's XII Corps with 3 infantry divisions held firm the southern shoulder of the Bulge, protecting Luxembourg City.

**January 18-February 21. Siegfried Line.** Crossing into the German homeland at the Lumembourg border, the XII Corps met stiffening German resistance. A landscape full of hundreds of hidden concrete pillboxes and furrowed with deep river valleys, each crossing requiring new bridge construction under enemy fire, and freezing weather made advancing here extremely tough and logistically complex. Combat engineers worked tirelessly to make multiple bridges across the rivers Our, Sauer, Nims, Prum, and Kyll. Eddy's 5th Infantry, commanded by Maj. Gen. S. Leroy "Red" Irwin had become masters of combat river crossings.

**February 22-28. Puttin' on the Ritz.** Patton sent Eddy with Hardaway off to London and Paris for some R&R. They visited Winchester, England, where Eddy's 9th Division had been stationed in Spring '44, and where Eddy was to be awarded the Freedom of the City. At the Ritz Hotel in Paris, Ben arranged a party, and watched while General Eddy danced with singer/movie star Marlene Dietrich till 3 AM.

**March 1-21. Palatinate Campaign.** On March 1, Trier, the ancient city of Roman times at the head of Germany's scenic grape-growing Moselle Valley fell to the Third Army. On March 7, the 4th Armored, back in Eddy's XII Corps reached the Rhine just north of Coblenz. Starting with Eddy's southward crossing of the Moselle on March 14, the reduction of the Moselle-Rhine-Saar triangle by the Third Army was considered by many the most brilliant campaign in WWII, bagging some 500,000 German prisoners. Supreme Commander Eisenhower later wrote, "...the Germans were completely surprised when the XII Corps leaped straight southward in one of the war's most dramatic advances, to strike deeply into the heart of the Saar defenses."

According to personnel officer Col. Frank R. Veale, who was with Eddy throughout WWII, "Sparkling the General throughout his campaign was a constant demand, almost a mania, for mobility. In combat particularly he displayed the most conspicuous aversion to allowing either his own person or the persons of his troops to remain in any location longer than it took to prepare the next move. Immobility was his dread. He was at his happiest, his most buoyant and confident, when the situation was moving rapidly."

**March 22. Sneak Across the Rhine.** While his rival, the British general Montgomery put the finishing touches on Operation Plunder, his typical, elaborate set piece, scheduled to cross the Rhine further north on March 24 with hundreds of bombers, 26 divisions, thousands of paratroopers, and massive artillery, gobbling up scarce resources, Gen. Patton once again showed his audacity by sneaking a division across the Rhine on the night of March 22 in rowboats. The XII Corps approached the Rhine near Oppenheim, and Irwin's 5th Infantry paddled across with little opposition, suffering only 28 casualties. The next day Patton called Gen. Bradley to announce, "Brad, I'm across."

Says Patton in his memoir of the first assault crossing of the Rhine since Napoleon, "The execution of this coup was magnificently

(continued on page 15)

(Lt. Gen. Manton S. Eddy...continued from page 14)

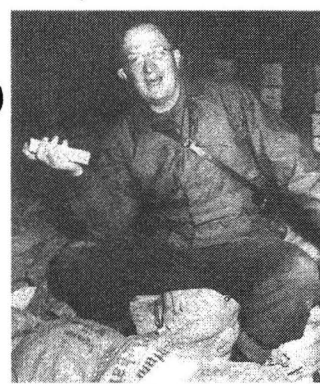
planned by General Eddy and gloriously executed by General Irwin." On the 24th when Eddy brought Patton to inspect the new pontoon bridge over the Rhine, Patton stopped midway to urinate in the river for the benefit of the assembled world's press and the history books.

**March 26-28. Hammelburg Raid.** General Patton's son-in-law, Lt. Col. John K. Waters had been captured by the Germans two years earlier in North Africa, and Patton had good reason to believe that Waters was in OFLAG XIIIb, an officer's prison camp in Hammelburg, Germany, about 80 miles east of Frankfurt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, whom Patton regarded as a rival, had recently made big headlines by liberating US prisoners on a daring raid in the Philippines. In what is usually called his biggest mistake, Patton soon started making plans for an even more heroic rescue.

When XII Corps got within 50 miles of Hammelburg, Patton tried to get Eddy to send a Combat Command, i.e. a 3,000 man armored force on an unauthorized mission to Hammelburg to rescue prisoners, not revealing that the business was personal. Because 1) Eddy knew his men were urgently needed as the southern half of a pincer to surround Germany's industrial Ruhr valley, 2) they would be illegally crossing southward into the zone of the Seventh Army (who would certainly rescue the prisoners within a week), 3) his 4th Armored commander, Gen. Hoge objected, and 4) probably finding Patton's motives to be suspicious, he refused.

A compromise armored raiding party of two companies, i.e. 314 men and 57 vehicles was sent on the night of March 26, led by Captain Abe Baum. Task Force Baum (for an authoritative website see [www.taskforcebaum.de](http://www.taskforcebaum.de)) managed to find Waters and briefly liberate OFLAG XIIIb, but with unexpectedly strong resistance, losing the element of surprise, many bizarre twists and turns, and with Patton inexplicably failing to order air support, was doomed to failure. Patton never took full responsibility for the fiasco, instead blaming those who talked him out of a larger force, especially Gen. Eddy.

**April 12. Nazi Gold.** As the Third Army advanced towards Czechoslovakia against diminishing German resistance, Eddy's 90th Infantry Division stumbled onto something interesting. 2,000 feet under-



April 12, 1945  
General Eddy hefts a gold bar.

ground in an abandoned salt mine at Merkers was a vault storing more than \$500 million worth of Nazi treasure-bank notes, gold bars, gold bullion, dental gold, silver, and stolen art treasures. Eddy had gotten permission from Patton to blow the doors to the main vault. The entire reserve of the Berlin Reichsbank was revealed, valued in today's dollars in excess of \$5 billion, whose loss, it was hoped, might speed German surrender.

On April 12, Gen. Eddy hosted an inspection of the vault by Gens. Eisenhower, Bradley, and Patton, lowered together via a dark, rickety old elevator operated by a German. Later the visiting generals toured the concentration

camp at Ohrdruf, newly liberated by the XII Corps. (Days later the XII took Buchenwald.) Around midnight of this fateful day, they all received the news of President Roosevelt's death.

**April 20. Eddy resigns due to hypertension.** Gen. Eddy had been feeling increasingly tired. On April 17 he suffered an unusually severe headache and consulted a doctor, who found his blood pressure at 200/150 alarmingly high, putting him at risk of a stroke. A few days of bed rest helped, but not enough. After further tests, an array of doctors recommended rest and treatment back in the U.S. Reluctantly, Gen. Eddy packed his bags. He was 52. German resistance was fading, Hitler would be dead by suicide within 10 days, and WWII would be over in 3 weeks.

**Post-WWII activities.** After rest in the U.S. and several surgeries, in early 1946 Gen. Eddy's blood pressure was low enough to resume command near Washington, D.C., and later in the Pentagon, working for Gen. Bradley. Tasked with modernizing the curriculum for army officers, Eddy became Commandant of the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, and gained a third star in the bargain. In 1950, the now Lt. Gen. Eddy went to Europe as Deputy Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Forces in Europe, then Commander of the Seventh Army, and finally as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army in Europe. The seventh Army Command should have qualified Eddy for a fourth star had promotions not been frozen.

After retirement from the Army in 1953, Eddy, lived in

(continued next column)

Columbus, Georgia, and worked there in construction and banking, became a civic leader, church elder, and an honorary Trustee of Shattuck School. Following a series of heart and prostate problems, and a mild stroke, Gen. Eddy died on April 10, 1962 of a heart attack, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Fourteen generals were present as honorary pallbearers, including Omar Bradley. A school was named after him, a bridge at his beloved Fort Benning, and today, thanks in part to the generosity of Ben Hardaway, there is a Gen. Eddy exhibit in the all new \$90 million National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park, Georgia.

**Epilogue.** At the dedication of Eddy Junior High School, Lt. Gen. Jenkins said of Lt. Gen. Eddy, in part: "He was a Master of the art of employing efficiently every piece of equipment, regardless of complexity. ...the art of molding different personalities and this equipment into an instrument of armed conflict, capable of performing any combat task assigned to him...Lastly, he possessed the personal habits and traits of character required to sell him promptly to his subordinates and superiors as a leader."

In his memoir Patton stated about Eddy's resignation, "He had been a very fine Corps Commander and I hated to see him go. Also, he had been with me almost since the initial landing in Africa and had probably commanded larger units of combat troops longer than any other general." As he had been trained to do at Shattuck School as a student, basketball and football player, and the school record-breaking mile runner, General Manton Sprague Eddy had given his all.

About the author: Dr. James L. Sudmeier is a researcher at Tufts Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. His screenplay about the Hammelburg raid entitled "Patton's Secret Mission" won the Platinum REMI, the highest award for screenwriting, at the 2006 Houston Film Festival.





## 9th Infantry Division Distinguished Service Cross Recipients World War II



### 9th Infantry Division

Manton S. Eddy, Major General, 24-26 June 1944  
Clair H. Thurston, Major, 7-13 March 1945

### 39th Infantry Regiment

Frank F. Aiello, Sergeant, 20 February 1943, (P), Company M  
Joe M. Barnett, Technical Sergeant, 9 August 1944, Company F  
Guy E. Carr, Captain, March 1943, Company L  
Anthony V. Danna, 1st Lieutenant, 23 July 1944, Company I  
Harry A. Flint, Colonel, August 1943  
Harry A. Flint, Colonel, 24 July 1944, (P), Oak Leaf Cluster  
Edgar L. Fournier, Private First Class, 18 June 1944, Company A  
Albert C. Geist, Captain, 15-16 April 1945, Company H  
John Gilman, Sergeant (PFC), 18 March 1945, Company H  
Malcolm B. Gott, 2nd Lieutenant, 18 March 1945, Company H  
Luther S. Gustafson, 2nd Lieutenant, April 1943, Company G  
Edward Koritzke, 2nd Lieutenant, 27 July 1944 (P)  
James E. Mathews, Private, 12 October 1944 (P)  
George R. Mohr, Private First Class, 31 January 1945, (P), Co. F  
Leonard W. Owens, Staff Sergeant, August 1943, (P), Company L  
Felix P. Settlemire, Captain, 23 April 1943, Cannon Company  
Robert L. Watts, 1st Lieutenant, August 1943 (P)  
Rempfer L. Whitehouse, Sergeant, 11 December 1944, Co. K

### 47th Infantry Regiment

Reggie G. Adams, Private First Class, November 1942, Co. L  
James D. Allgood, Lieutenant Colonel (Capt.), 10 July 1944, Co. K  
Woodrow W. Bailey, Major, 30 June 1944  
James H. Cameron, 2nd Lieutenant, 8 November 1942, HQ/I Co.  
Luis F. Castro, Private First Class, 10 December 1944  
Willard D. Clark, Staff Sergeant, 22 September 1944  
Donald C. Claymon, Lieutenant Colonel, 16-25 June 1944  
Thomas R. Earl, Sergeant (PFC), 23 June 1944  
Leonard P. Elder, Private First Class, 17 June 1944, MD Co.  
William M. Evans, 2nd Lieutenant, 16 June 1944, (P)  
Gael M. Frazier, 1st Lieutenant, 21 November 1944, Company L  
Harrison M. Gardler, Staff Sergeant, 8 November 1942, HQ/I Co.  
Joseph Glider, 2nd Lieutenant, 16 June 1944, Company D  
Elmer W. Graff, 1st Lieutenant, 24 June 1944, Company E  
Willard Harty, Technical Sergeant, 25 November 1944, (P)  
Edward W. Hauschildt, 1st Sergeant, 21 November 1944, Co. L  
Wilber L. Howard, Sergeant (PFC), 14 October 1944, Company E  
Elmo H. Jarvis, Private, 18 August 1943, (P)  
George E. Jenkins, Captain (1st Lt.), 9-10 August 1944, Co. C  
Henry J. Kucharski, 2nd Lieutenant (T3), 11 July 1944, MD Co.  
Vestal R. Lester, 1st Lieutenant, 21 November 1944, Company L  
Lewis E. Maness, Lieutenant Colonel, 3-4 April 1945, Company G  
Albert D. Moses, Sergeant, 22 September 1944, (P), Company L  
Joseph P. Perehinec, Staff Sergeant, 16 June 1944, (P), Co. K  
Frank L. Peso, 2nd Lieutenant, 25 November 1944, (P)  
Frank E. Petty, Captain, 3-5 April 1945, Company E  
Ervin H. Randle, Colonel, 28 March 1943  
James W. Searles, Staff Sergeant, 26 November 1944, Co. K  
Joseph F. Sefchick, Staff Sergeant, 23 June 1944, Company K  
Gerald E. Smith, Private, June 1944, (P)  
George E. Smyth, Colonel, 7 September 1944  
Sherman S. Spear, Private First Class, 8 November 1942, HQ Co.  
William F. Squire, 11 July 1944, (P), Company K  
Charles D. St. John, Technical Sergeant, 2 March 1945, Co. C  
John Tokarchek, Technical Sergeant, 10 August 1944  
Joseph Volansky, 18 August 1944, (P)

(continued next column)

Lee Wetherholt Jr., Private First Class, 30 June 1944  
Earl L. Woelfel, Private First Class, 22 June 1944, (P), Co. E  
Charles S. Wolfe, Private First Class, March 1943 (P)  
Anthony Zuk, Staff Sergeant, 30 June 1944, (P), Company F

### 60th Infantry Regiment

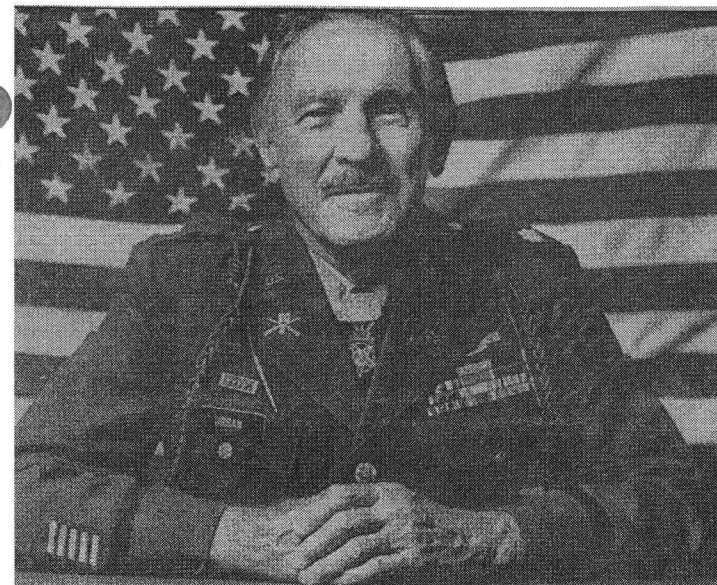
Paul E. Alexander, Staff Sergeant, 14 June 1944, (P), Co. G  
Lester L. Boswell, Staff Sergeant, April 1943, (P), Company F  
Carmine A. Botti, Private First Class, 1-2 April 1943, Company E  
Thomas R. Brazil, Staff Sergeant, 14 June 1944  
Edward Brinkman, Private, March 1943, MD Company  
James F. Burgin, Private First Class, 30 June 1944, (P)  
Frank L. Czar, Corporal, 8 November 1942, Company E  
Harold J. Ditter, 2nd Lieutenant (M/Sgt.), April 1943, Company B  
Harry S. Dickerson, Private First Class, 8-9 October 1944, (P)  
Leslie W. Dooley, 2nd Lieutenant, 8 November 1942, AT Co.  
Charles Dushane, 2nd Lieutenant, 8 November 1942, Company E  
Edward C. Federmann, 18 August 1943, (P), MD Company  
Louis Ferrari, Private First Class, 17 July 1944, Company F  
John R. Fisher, Private First Class, 8 November 1942, Co. E  
Eugene Fontes, Private, 13 December 1944, (P), MD Company  
Jesse Gibney, Colonel, 9 September 1944, Regimental CO  
Stanley P. Gull, Staff Sergeant, 17 July 1944  
Lawrence W. Gunderson, Staff Sergeant, 25 July 1944, (P), Co. F  
Green D. Hadley, Private First Class, 2 February 1945, MD Co.  
Harry C. Heller, 2nd Lieutenant, 8 November 1942, Company E  
Grady B. Holman, Captain, 12 December 1944, Company B  
Seymour I. Johnson, Private, March 1943, (P)  
Herbert J. Joys, Technician Fifth Class, September 1944, MD Co.  
William Katsoulakos, Private, 23 June 1944, (P), Company E  
Frank S. Kolodziez, Private First Class, 15 June 1944  
Donald W. Larson, Technical Sergeant, 30 June 1944, (P), Co. E  
Julius Lefkowitz, Private, April 1943, (P), Company K  
Elmer E. Lent, 2nd Lieutenant, April 1943, (P), Company B  
Richard H. Lininger, 2nd Lieutenant, 25-26 July 1944, (P)  
Clarence L. Mohler, Private First Class, 8 November 1942, Co. E  
Walter Neely, Private, March 1943, Company K  
Don B. Passage, Private First Class, 8 November 1942, (P), Co. H  
Ferdinand Pote, 5 April 1943, Company E  
Rossman L. Dalton, Private First Class, April 1943  
Stanley I. Silverman, Private, March 1943  
Felix Scoroposki, 1st Sergeant, 15 June 1944, Company B  
Alfred L. Sharff, 2nd Lieutenant, 8 November 1942, (P), Co. E  
Roy J. Smith, 2nd Lieutenant, 9 November 1942, (P), Company M  
Jack Thomas, Private First Class, 9 April 1945, Company E  
Charles S. Willsher, Staff Sergeant, March 1943, Company K

### Legend:

P = Posthumous  
AT = Anti Tank  
MD = Medical Detachment  
OLC = Oak Leaf Cluster

*Ed Note: The listing was provided by Monty McDaniel and contains 101 names including two for Colonel Harry A. Flint.*

## HISTORY ROAD



Lt. Col. Matt Urban took the honor of most decorated veteran from the late movie actor Audie Murphy.

### War hero: U.S. forgets too easily

The country's most decorated war veteran says Americans too easily forget the sacrifices soldiers make to defend and protect the United States.

"The anger, the despair, the remorse a soldier can feel on the battlefield are powerful forces that war veterans do not quickly forget," said retired Army Lt. Col. Matt Urban, 69, now recreation director for Holland, Mich.

He speaks in a raspy whisper, the result of one of his seven wounds.

"You saw your buddies blown to bits. You looked around and saw these were just young boys giving their bodies, their health and their lives so each and every one of us could continue living in a world of peace and dignity."

He commanded troops through six campaigns on two continents in World War II, participating in some of the war's heaviest combat.

He won worldwide recognition July 19, 1980, when he was acknowledged as the country's most decorated war hero. After a 34-year delay caused by an Army paperwork snag, Urban received his Medal of Honor from President Jimmy Carter.

Urban was so dedicated to his men that he twice left Army hospitals without permission, once hitchhiking 1,000 miles across unknown countryside to St. Lo, France, to be with his regiment.

"It was a bloody war, and a lot of people forget that because of the way a lot of movies portrayed it," he said.

*Reprinted from the Cincinnati Enquirer, Wednesday, November 11, 1987, Veterans Day. During the period 14 June to 3 September 1944, Lieutenant Colonel (then Captain) Matt Urban distinguished himself while assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division.*

July 19, 1980

35 Years Later

By Betty S. Prince

One day in July a letter was addressed to Louis M. Prince inviting him to Washington, D.C. to see an old army friend receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Lt. Col. Matt Urban had been commissioned on the field of battle in Europe a second lieutenant, for bravery from Africa on to the end of the European War, he had been a legend. At first Lou didn't think he would attend the ceremony, due to Washington heat and a planned trip to New England.

A telephone call from John Ryan, another old army officer friend, changed the whole turn of events: John asked Lou how many friends of theirs had ever received the Congressional Medal of Honor. He'd even engaged hotel rooms for us at the Sheraton, as the Shoreham was full. How glad we are that he did!

(continued next column)

At first the presentation was supposed to be at the White House, but too many friends accepted the invitation so it was held in the Ballroom of the Shoreham Hotel, for about 300 people. We arrived the night before and were told Lou had to check in by 9 p.m. as the Security men were coming in to check files and peoples' records. Lou had to give his Social Security number, rank in the Army, what unit, and years he had been assigned. Finally, they asked if he was with a wife or friend. Only his wife's name was necessary.

He was told we had to be in the Ballroom before 9 a.m., and the doors would be sealed. The Presentation would be at 9:30. We had an exciting early morning and arrived at 8:30 a.m. only to find a long line. Every 25 feet there was a member of the honor guard - the elite of the Army in dress uniforms, white gloves, etc. On the way into the Ballroom Lou saw General Westmoreland, an army friend from Ft. Bragg where they had both been Lieutenants together. Greetings and words were exchanged. Finally we were in the Ballroom filled with gold chairs and lined with mirrors and Security men with walkie-talkie radios.

We chose to sit in the last two rows with John Ryan and four other army friends. While there, two men who had fought with Lou's battery when he was a Battery Commander came by. One said, "Captain Prince, you haven't changed at all except you have a moustache." The other said, "I always wondered what kind of a lady you had married, and I'm glad I've seen you."

By then we had our programs and were listening to a 100 piece Marine Band play the most stirring music. The TV cameras with their crews were focusing and bright lights were everywhere. A Major came down the aisle and asked us to follow him as they wanted us to sit in the front. We had no choice and were seated next to members of the State Department, Generals and Generals' wives, etc. One officer with us remarked that they thought I was a General's wife as I had on white gloves and a large straw hat.

The Band stopped and a member of the Secret Service made an announcement: "No one is to rise until the National Anthem is played at the end of the Presentation."

A moment later a General, followed by the Secretary of the Army, Clifford L. Alexander Jr., a yellow haired girl 10 years old who was Co. Urban's daughter, and his wife in a red, white and blue silk suit, stepped out. Finally an erect husky handsome Matt Urban in uniform, eyes glistening, arrived. Without a thought the entire audience stood up and applauded - it went on and on and no one seemed to hear the Band play "Hail to the Chief" or saw President Jimmy Carter arrive. He was finally on the podium. Only then did the audience stop and take their seats.

A short and fitting speech was given by the President, and while he was putting the Congressional Medal of Honor around Colonel Urban's neck, Mr. Alexander read the Citation: an unbelievable account of bravery. Finally, the National Anthem was played and the President departed while the Band played "The Army Song," remembered by many as the Caisson Song.

Men and women from all walks of life and in all sorts of attire had come from across the land to be with a friend who was a true hero. No one was ashamed of having a tear show and there wasn't a dry eye to be seen.

From there we were escorted to private buses and driven to Arlington Cemetery. It must have 130 degrees in the sun - so hot that an ambulance was there waiting for any victims. The Air Force Band played in the rotunda, their music echoed across the rolling countryside. There was a massing of flags and an Honor Guard. Finally a 75 year old priest who had been with the Ninth Division, the hero's division, spoke. Father Connors was followed by a rabbi and a protestant minister. After prayers we were asked to go around to the back of the rotunda, where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is situated.

We silently watched the changing of the guard, and heard heavy footsteps before seeing two platoons in dress uniforms ascend the steps to the Tomb. A wreath in the shape and colors of the Octofoil, the insignia of the Ninth Infantry Division, was brought forward and Colonel Urban

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(35 Years Later...continued from page 17)

slowly placed it at the Tomb. Out of the stillness came the beautiful haunting sound of Taps. One shivered even in the heat of the day.

We quietly returned to the buses and the Shoreham Hotel to be revived by the air conditioning and to talk to friends. Rested, we attended a banquet in the evening in honor of the Ninth Division hero.

At the time we discovered that he is Recreational Director in Holland, Michigan.

He and Mrs. Urban left the dinner but later greeted friends and admirers in the lobby. The following morning he and his family were being flown in an Air Force jet back to Holland, where the town would celebrate Matt Urban Day the following Monday.

When asked how he felt about receiving his medal 36 years later, he said he had only one regret, that his parents were not alive to see him receive it.

Across the country the press and TV talked about Colonel Urban's papers being lost in Washington, hence the late citation.

It was truly a chance that comes once in a lifetime to a very few, to know a true hero. We came home feeling every American should be able to see such a citation presented. It was a thrilling experience making one proud to be an American.

September 5, 1980

Photo courtesy of Walter Victor

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Editor's Note

Your continued cooperation and timeliness submitting all letters, photos, chapter reports, articles and so on to the editor on or before **June 20, 2010** is appreciated.

Please notify the editor of address changes to ensure timely and accurate delivery of your newsletter.

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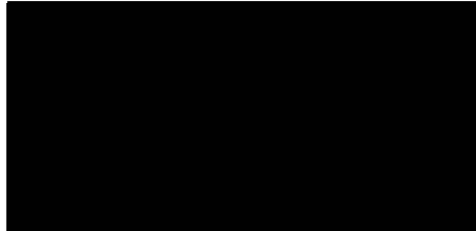
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