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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

4-1-2010

The Octofoil, April/May/June 2010

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil

Apr.-May-Jun.,
2010

Volume LXV, No. 2



President
Joseph Maiale

President's Message

I have been sitting at my desk thinking of writing my article for *The Octofoil* and of course my thoughts go to what can I say that will be of interest to our members. I also want to let them know the huge sacrifices we made are not forgotten. I stopped short and suddenly remembered selling poppies on Memorial Day. I had always been of the feeling that we were slowly being forgotten. Standing there with the poppies in my hand and my 9th Infantry Division cap on I could not believe the tremendous show of gratitude and appreciation by the young people. I had always felt sad when something negative was said about the World War II veteran, but now I know that people who love our country and came here to make a better life truly do care and we are not forgotten.

So take heart buddies, we are remembered. Having said that let us try to perpetuate our association so that we will continue to be remembered. God bless and stay well.

Joseph Maiale, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

65th ANNUAL REUNION PROGRAM
Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport
2501 South High School Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46241
July 30, 31 and August 1, 2010

Friday, July 30, 2010

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.—Registration-Hospitality Room: O'Hare Room
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Board of Governors Meeting: Heathrow Room
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.—Pizza Party and Reception: Atrium

Saturday, July 31, 2010

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.—Breakfast: Gallery
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Registration-Hospitality Room: O'Hare Room
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—Memorial Service (Be seated by 9:15 a.m.): Ballroom
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Group Photo: Ballroom
12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.—Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon: Gallery
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.—Ladies Auxiliary General Business Meeting: Gallery
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.—Association General Business: Heathrow Room
6:15 p.m.—Charter buses leave hotel for : Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre

Sunday, August 1, 2010

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Breakfast: Gallery
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Registration-Hospitality Room: O'Hare Room
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—Sons & Daughters Auxiliary Meeting: LaGuardia Room
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.—Board of Governors Meeting: Heathrow Room
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.—Banquet Reception with open bar: Ballroom
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.—Gala Banquet: Ballroom

Monday, August 2, 2010

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Breakfast: Gallery
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—Hospitality Room: O'Hare Room
8:00 a.m. to ??? - Say goodbye, check out and head for home

NOTE: The group photo will cost \$25 per copy this year. If you want a photo the fee will be collected from you when you register. Please try to pay with cash.

www.octofoil.org

?????

See Editor's Note on page 13

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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.

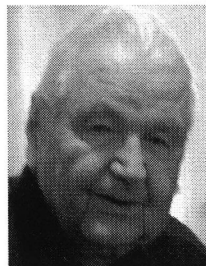
THE NINETY'S CLUB

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.

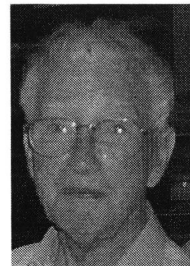
New Ninety's Club Members



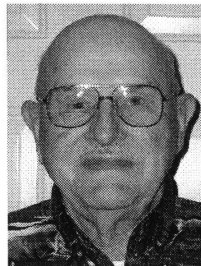
Donald E. Crass (90)
Phelps, Wis.



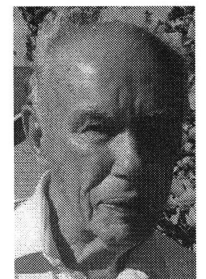
Philip Dubina (91)
Georgetown, Mass.



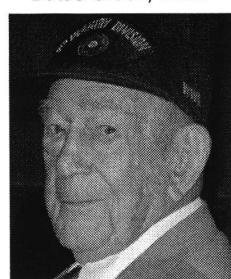
Roy L. Duncan (90)
Battle Creek, Mich.



George Minarik (90)
South Bend, Ind.



Matthew Szuba (90)
New Castle, Pa.



Col. Ralph Williams (91)
Fort Pierce, Fla.

Club Members Photos Previously Published

Sabatino Agostinelli, Rochester, N.Y.
Rodger E. Alsgaard, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Michael Belmonte, Oak Park, Ill.
Harold L. Billington, Armington, Ill.
Gordon M. Binder, MD, Millbrae, Calif.
S. Bill Buemi, Cleveland, Ohio
Anthony Cheney, Hunter, Kans.
Wyett H. Colclasure, Salem, Ill.
John Compel, McKeesport, 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.
Kenneth S. Jenks, Westbury, N.Y.
Jack F. Jewell, Lawrence, Kans.
Charles W. "Hoss" Johnson, Cambridge, Md.
Joseph B. Kash, Glenside, Pa.
Alton E. Le Duc, West Branch, Mich.
James E. Leopold, Chicago, Ill.
Arthur G. Lindquist, Hazelcrest, 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
Wallace O. Richardson, Franklin, Ind.
Edward E. Rickert, Oak Forest, Ill.
William J. Rybka, Raleigh, N.C.
Charles Scheffel, San Antonio, Tex.
Henry Shimkoski, Worcester, Mass.
Clyde E. Shull, Upper Sandusky, Ohio
Thelma Solar, Tucson, Ariz.
Herbert Stern, Houston, Tex.
Herbert Taff, Fort Lee, N.J.
William W. Tanner, Union City, Tenn.
Walter Victor, Dawsonville, Ga.
Col. John Wessmiller, Chatham, Mass.
Morton H. Wolk, Santa Ana, Calif.
Alphonse J. Zenka, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Pat J. Zona, East Sandwich, Mass.

Missing Photos

Marvin J. Balthaser, Reading, Pa.
Carroll B. DeVoid, Williston, Vt.
Andrew Kopack, Nazareth, Pa.
Harold Schramm, New Milford, N.J.

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

Active Ninety's Club Members

64 Veterans + 1 Widow = 65 Total Members

Reunion Update

As this issue of the newsletter goes to press we have reservations for 71 rooms which translates to 129 people. This total includes family members with young children and several of our Ninety's Club members. Some are not staying at the hotel, but will stay with friends or relatives in the Indianapolis area. On page 10 you will find driving directions for your convenience. Arriving by plane, go to the baggage claim area and there you will find a bank of telephones. Find the one for the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport, and call the hotel. They will send a van to pick you up. After getting your luggage, go to "Ground Transportation Zone 2" to meet the hotel van. All hotel vans come to this area for pick up of incoming passengers.

We have many single rooms, but one of our members is bringing 18 members of his family, including a grandson who is six years old. To go to the other extreme, the oldest member of association, Wyett Colclasure, age 97, will also be attending. His son is bringing him and he served with the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam.

Don't wait any longer if you still want to come to the reunion. There are about seven rooms open that we are holding for last minute reservations, but these must be turned back to the hotel by July 10. Fill out the reservation form and send with a check for full payment right away.

Briefly here are some thoughts about where to have the reunion next year. We are looking at the possibility of going to New Orleans. The World War II Museum in New Orleans has just been designated by an Act of Congress as "The National World War II Museum." They also have the facilities to serve meals in the museum, and we are thinking of doing like we did in Grand Rapids, Michigan when we went to the Gerald Ford Museum for dinner. We could combine dinner and a tour of the museum for our Saturday night event. Something to think about.

One more detail: I have been notified by Verizon Telephone that after June 30, 2010, they will not provide personal toll free numbers any longer. In order to keep a toll free number I would have to become a commercial business, and that would involve too much red tape. So, after June 30, you will have to call my home phone, [REDACTED]. Sorry about that, but the telephone company has the last word.

Bill Robey, Reunion Chairman

Secretary-Treasurer Report

A full financial report will be published in the next newsletter and it will include a budget for the next fiscal year.

We are having some trouble with the CGM Fund where our money is invested. No one knows what happened to the Stock Certificates that were issued when this fund was established in March 1953, and a second account was established in March 1964. The fund seems to be putting road blocks in our way when asked about how to get new certificates. I was told that we would have to put up a surety bond, which would cost a little over \$500 in order to get new certificates issued. After a lot of investigation, I finally found out that almost all banks and other corporations require basically the same thing in order to re-issue stock certificates. This is mainly to prevent the old certificates that were reported lost from being found and have someone try to cash them in. Until we get the proper forms from CGM and get them notarized and returned, we cannot draw money from this fund. A more detailed report will be presented to the Board of Governors at the reunion. If any longtime members of the association know anything about these lost certificates, please contact me right away.

Our fiscal year ended on June 30, so if you have not paid your dues, please do so now. The address label contains your expiration date if you pay annually or every three years so please check it.

(continued next column)

TIP OF THE HAT

We thank the following members and friends for remembering the Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

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

Send to: William G. Robey, Secretary-Treasurer
[REDACTED]

Anna Rybka, Katti and Matthew Mashburn in honor of Lt. Col William J. Rybka 90th birthday

Marietta Poulson in memory of Robert D. Poulson

Herb Stern in honor of Louis Prince and Henry G. Phillips for the French Legion of Honor

Mike and Ann Belmonte in memory of Peggy Hennemuth

Stanley and Bernice Kazdoy in honor of their 66th anniversary

Gail Eisenhower in memory of Herb Olsen

Mike and Ann Belmonte in memory of John Clouser

Helen Losnes in memory of John Losnes

Lisa Froug-Hirano in memory of John Celler

Ralph Burris in memory of I Company, 39th Inf. Regt.

We are still working on the ways and means of transferring operations of the association over to the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary. This is getting more complicated, but we have time to work our way through it and still do it right. This will be discussed by the Board of Governors and also at the general business meeting on Saturday at the reunion. All of you need to think about this and let Joe Maiale or me know your thoughts. No decision will be made without the complete vote by the membership by mail. When we get all the details ironed out, we will have a formal vote of the membership to finalize the whole process. Everyone that either Joe or I have talked to have been in agreement with the idea including the Board of Governors.

See you in Indianapolis!!!

Bill Robey, Secretary-Treasurer

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thomas P. Baskin, Jr. A Co., 60th Inf. Regt. | Grady Holman, Jr. B Co., 60th Inf. Regt. | Lee Phillips Wife of Henry G. "Red" Phillips |
| Warren W. Boulden | Kenneth Holtmeyer A Co., 47th Inf. Regt. | Joseph L. Rappazini K Co., 60th Inf. Regt. |
| Paul Allen Bridges B Co., 47th Inf. Regt. | Alvin James A Co., 15th Engr. Bn. | Fred H. Schroeder 9th Recon Troop |
| John J. Clouser Hq. Btry., 26th FA Bn. | Ruth Johnson Widow of Doyt Johnson | Arnold Tomanek Sv. Co., 39th Inf. Regt. |
| Peggy Hennemuth Widow of William Hennemuth | Arthur MacDonald | Edward Tyszka M Co., 60th Inf. Regt. |
| Irven J. Hokka C Co., 60th Inf. Regt. | Herbert E. Olsen G Co., 47th Inf. Regt. | |

TAPS LETTERS

Warren W. Boulden

My name is Kevin Boulden. My father was Warren W. Boulden. He passed away on July 11, 2008. He was 85 years old. I have received in my mailbox the current issue of your publication the "Octofoil." Please remove him from your mailing list. I can say that he thoroughly enjoyed receiving the "Octofoil."
Respectfully and Sincerely, Kevin Boulden

John J. Clouser

Hq. Btry., 26th Field Artillery Battalion

It is with a heavy heart that I must report to you of the passing of John.

As you may know, he was one of the early members of the Division Association and contributed much to its success. He served as president several terms, chaired several reunions and was on the Board of Governors numerous times. He also chaired the Scholarship Committee for the duration of its existence.

Sincerely, Helen Clouser

Peggy Hennemuth

Enclosed is a check for the Memorial Fund in memory of Peggy Hennemuth who passed away in January. She was the wife of William Hennemuth, 60th Inf., 1st Bn. Hq. Bill passed away a few years ago but Peggy stayed in Florida. Fortunately she was here when she passed away. Memorial Services were held on April 10, 2010 in N. Prospect where they lived.

Mike and I are doing OK and Lord willing we hope to make the reunion in July.

Sincerely, Mike and Ann Belmonte

Irven J. Hokka

C Co., 60th Infantry Regiment

Irven J. Hokka, age 85, of Eagan, Minn., formerly of Britt, Minn. Passed away on March 9, 2010 at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minn. He was the son of the late Oscar and Rose Hokka. He was diagnosed with a rare form of renal cancer December 15, 2009. He was given excellent care where his pain was controlled so he was only confined to a bed the last 4 days of his life. He was buried with military honors. Irven served his country in WWII in the US Army. He landed on Normandy Beach in France on June 7, 1944, which was his 20th birthday. Advanced units had already secured the ground so they waded to shore where shells were landing everywhere around them. German pillboxes were bombed and shelled by ships and were destroyed. The pillboxes protected the coastline and contained heavy artillery pieces. On July 17th he was wounded near St. Lo, France which is on the outskirts of Paris. It happened in hedgerow fighting. Hedgerows are a common French terrain. The enemy lobbed hand grenades and pinned them down. One grenade landed a couple of feet from his head so he pressed his face down into the dirt and the fragments splattered his steel helmet. Then another hit him in the hip and having quick reflexes, he lunged forward so when it exploded it was located between the ankle and the knee. The grenade caused a triple compound fracture of his lower left leg and it had to be amputated just above the knee. If it had exploded at hip level, he would have been killed. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was proud of his service and loved being an American. Whenever he would hear anyone complaining about our government he was quick to remind them that we are fortunate to live in the best country in the world because we have freedom and that freedom is worth fighting for. He also reminded them that many have paid with their

(continued on page 5)

TAPS LETTERS

(Irven J. Hokka...continued from page 4)

life and limbs to keep that freedom. He was a wonderful, loving and caring man and it was a privilege to have him in our lives for so many years. We truly miss him and will always cherish the many good memories.

Sincerely, Sandra Aske, Niece

Grady Holman, Jr.

B Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

It is with a heavy heart that I share the very sad news that Capt. Grady Holman, Jr. DSC, passed away on March 14, 2010. He was a colorful, unique, spirited Southern Gentleman who was a joy to get to know. He was fiercely proud to be a Ninth man, was wounded 4 times, and never forgot the men in his company that never came home. It was Grady who led the charge, with his cane in the air, when his company won the Presidential Unit Citation. As a result of his heroic actions he was awarded the DSC but that did not define who he was. Grady had no problem questioning authority and standing up to those he disagreed with; his men adored him. He proudly said the only medal that eluded him was the Good Conduct Medal. Grady kept every issue of *The Octofoil* and it was thanks to his record keeping that I found the only one still around who knew my uncle. Bless you Grady. I will miss you.

Signed, Your Devoted Friend, Lisa

Kenneth Holtmeyer

A Company, 47th Infantry Regiment

I'm sorry that I haven't notified you sooner but my uncle, Kenneth Holtmeyer, passed away on June 22, 2009. His high school sweetheart and wife, Le, my aunt followed shortly thereafter on October 18, 2009.

Uncle Ken had complications following the replacement of his pacemaker with a defibrillator. After the procedure, Uncle Ken was getting weaker instead of stronger, many appointments and tests later indicated the third wire of the device wasn't attached and the tip of the wire was infected with sepsis. By that time, the toxins had traveled throughout his body, his kidneys finally shut down. Aunt Le and I were with him, he fought hard and tried everything to live, at the end he went very peacefully to his heavenly home.

Uncle Ken was very proud that he served in the Battle of the Bulge and spoke about his service experiences quite often. I wish I could address you properly with your rank, but I want to thank you and your comrades for your sacrifice in protecting our country and our freedom. May you all enjoy your next reunion, toast my Uncle Ken and speak of him often so he won't be forgotten. Thanking you, I remain,

Sincerely yours, Connie Schmuke

Ruth Johnson

I am writing to let you know Ruth (Mrs. Doyt) Johnson has passed away and you can stop sending the Octofoil. She enjoyed reading all the news even if she didn't know anyone. Doyt Johnson was in the 9th Div. and has been gone for a long time. Thanks very much for sending the Octofoil

Her Daughter, Patricia Shively

Lee Phillips

It is my sad duty to report to you the passing of my beloved wife, Lee, on June 6, 2010. We were married in 1942.
Signed, Henry G. "Red" Phillips

Joseph L. Rappazini

K Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

It is with a sad heart I am informing you that my dear husband of 62 years passed away at home February 9, 2010. He led an anti-tank platoon through North Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium and into Germany. He was wounded twice and awarded the Silver Star Medal shortly after D-Day.

He wrote a book of poems about the war which was never published but which he gave away 250-300 copies to members of the 9th at the reunions in Hyannis in 1999.

Dan Quinn was so pleased with the poem about him in the book that he called Joe the Ninth's Poet Laureate.

Joe died of Alzheimer's Disease which he suffered for over twenty-two years.

We enjoyed many reunions. The last one was at Arlington, Va. With our five daughters. Joe will be buried there on June 18th.

Sincerely, Shirley Rappazini

Fred H. Schroeder

9th Reconnaissance Troop

It is with great sadness that I report the death on March 18, 2010 of my beloved husband, Fred H. Schroeder, Reconnaissance Troop of the 9th Infantry Division. Fred struggled valiantly with kidney disease for over two years, but when his time came he had a peaceful, pain-free death, able to bid a fond goodbye to his wife and children. We miss him more than we can say.

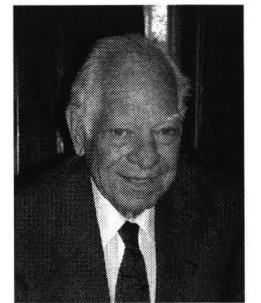
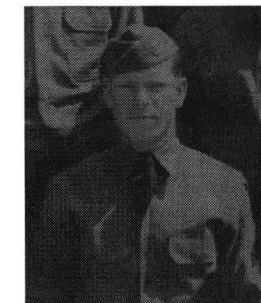
Sincerely, Martha D. Schroeder

Edward A. Tyszka

M Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

My father, Edward A. Tyszka mentioned that I should contact *The Octofoil* when he passed. He passed away yesterday morning, March 25th. He was always so proud to be part of the 9th Division. He wore his belt buckle almost all of the time.

He also mentioned that I should give you the following Army information:
Company M, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division
Preceded by his wife, Ann, October 19, 2008
I have also attached a photo of him from the Army and a recent photo.



I would appreciate it if you would send me a copy of the issue that any information appears in. Let me know if I need to send you any donation to cover postage. Also, I believe he was a Sergeant.

Sincerely, Deborah Tyszka

TAPS OBITUARIES

Thomas P. Baskin, Jr.
1917-2010

A Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

Thomas P. Baskin, Jr., child of the kindly South, late of Lewiston, Idaho, kept his appointment with entropy on February 25, 2010, due to complications from pneumonia. Tom was preceded in death by his precious wife, Martha, about whom he often said he had no recollection of meeting, because she was there in his earliest memories. Except for the war years, they were never far apart.

Tom graduated from Clemson University and was member of the fabled class of 1939, a class whose ranks would later be depleted by the last just war. Of Tom's two hundred and ninety two classmates, twenty-six never returned from battle. Tom was initially rejected by the Army due to his color blindness. However, with the onset of hostilities the Selective Service became less selective, and he was allowed to enlist in the Army on November 27, 1942, in Anderson. Tom entered Officer Candidate School in October 1943 and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant on February 11, 1944. In May of 1944 he boarded the Mauritania, bound for Liverpool. He joined the 9th Infantry Division on July 26, 1944, in time to participate in the assault on St. Lo. He received a battlefield promotion to First Lieutenant after leading the initial attacks on the Siegfried Line in October 1944. Tom was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism on February 14, 1945, for his actions of September 18, in the vicinity of Alzen, Germany.

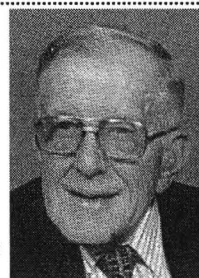
He crawled from hedgerow to hedgerow in France, and survived the Battle of the Bulge. When speaking of his wartime acquaintances, he would sometimes conclude by shaking his head, as though in disbelief, saying "It was a miracle he survived the war." The same could have been said of him. As little boys, his sons would beg him to tell them about his wartime exploits. He never said much until many years later, when he was finally persuaded to record his wartime memories for posterity. Although he did not dwell on the war, he was blessed not to have been traumatized by it. In later years, as he began to talk more about his time in Europe, the story he told most often was of his unplanned crossing of the bridge at Remagen on March 7, 1945, an intact bridge across the Rhine that came to figure so importantly in the Allied strategy for the defeat of Germany.

Tom separated from the Army as a Captain in March of 1946, and returned to civilian life as an engineer for C.M. Guest and Sons, a South Carolina engineering firm involved in the fabrication and installation of paper machines for the papermaking industry.

Paul Allen Bridges
1924-2010

B Company, 47th Infantry Regiment

Paul Allen Bridges, 85, died Friday, April 30, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Margaret Scaife Bridges. Paul was born November 23, 1924. He served as a staff sergeant in WWII in Europe, with Company B, 47th Infantry Regiment. He retired from Liberty Life Ins. Co. after 37 years of work in the accounting and records departments. He was involved in South Carolina Association of Records Managers, Red Cross, Toastmasters, Drum and Bugle Corps, and Greenville Camera and Garden Clubs. He was a charter member of Francis Asbury UMC, where he was active in all aspects of church life and was certified as a lay preacher for the Methodist Church. He was a 62 year member of the American Legion Post 3 and served for over 42 years as Chaplain. Paul was an avid woodworker, calligrapher, gardener and photographer.



John J. Clouser
1923-2010

Headquarters Battery 26th Field Artillery Battalion

John J. Clouser, 87, of 60 Royal Oak Drive, Gladstone, passed away peacefully Friday morning, April 30, 2010, at the Pinecrest Medical Care Facility in Powers.

John was born April 14, 1923, in West Milton, Pa., the son of John Adam and Rosetta (Meckley) Clouser. Following his father's death,

John, at the age of 11, and his mother, Rosetta, moved to Mooseheart, Ill., where John attended and graduated from the Mooseheart High School class of 1941.

Following high school, John enlisted in the United States Army, serving with the 9th Infantry Division, during World War II. After World War II, John enrolled in the Illinois College of Jacksonville where he earned his bachelor's degree. After college, John was recalled and served during the Korean War before returning to Illinois where he continued his education at Northwestern to receive his master's degree of education.

John continued by acquiring a student teaching position at Maine Township High School in Park Ridge, Ill. Eventually, over the course of 24 years, John progressed to obtain a position at Maine Township High, as a teacher, counselor, dean, assistant principal and finally principal before his retirement in 1979.

John was an active member of the 9th Infantry Division Association where he served three terms as president over the years. He also was a past member of the Order of Moose and the Gladstone American Legion August Mattson Post 71. John was an active member of the First Lutheran Church of Gladstone, serving two terms on the church council. He will be deeply missed. He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Helen.

Arthur MacDonald
1917-2010

Arthur T. MacDonald, 92, died at home on Tuesday, April 20, 2010. Art was born in Portsmouth on Dec. 18, 1917, the son of Sarah Anne and Douglas A. MacDonald. He graduated from Portsmouth High School in 1935 and worked at the A&P in Dover, rising to Assistant Manager. It was at the A&P that he met his future wife, Ruth Kanada, whom he married when he returned from military service.

Arthur's military career was extraordinary. Drafted in 1941, he served as a Forward Observer for the 9th Division artillery for four years, a remarkably long career in what is generally considered one of the most dangerous and challenging positions on the battlefield. Forward Observers direct artillery fire and close air support, often from behind enemy lines. They combine reconnaissance skills with high intelligence and the ability to think quickly in extremely stressful situations. Missions may last from several hours to several weeks and are often executed with minimal support behind enemy lines. Forward Observers are considered targets of high importance because of the tremendous firepower they control.

In WWII, before the advent of GPS, Internet, and cell technologies, the active career of a forward observer was generally very short. Arthur was interviewed by Ernie Pyle for his book "Brave Men" after an especially dramatic mission. Among his military honors, Art was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor for his service in Normandy. He also received three Purple Hearts for wounds sustained during the invasions of Africa, Sicily, and Germany. He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1945.

He worked for New England Telephone for 35 years, as a lineman, cable splicer, instructor, and contract inspector. He retired in 1983.

TAPS OBITUARIES

Joseph L. Rappazini
1917-2010

K Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

For most of his life, Joseph Rappazini was shy and reserved. But there was nothing timid about his decision in June 1944 to walk up to a group of 84 German soldiers and talk them into surrendering as the rest of his platoon watched from a distance. It happened in France during World War II when Mr. Rappazini was a lieutenant in the 9th Infantry Division. Though he was awarded a Silver Star for his boldness and two Purple Hearts for wounds, Mr. Rappazini, who went on to spend 34 years as a middle school teacher in Detroit Public Schools, never told his family about the incident. "He was a very humble man, and he didn't think doing the right thing required telling other people about it," said his daughter Judy Cassady of Birmingham. She said her mother, Shirley Thomas Rappazini, found out about it after Mr. Rappazini's sister gave her newspaper clippings after they married in 1947.

Mr. Rappazini died Tuesday (February 9, 2010) at his home in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., after a long fight with Alzheimer's disease. He was 92.

TAPS TRIBUTES

Grady Holman, Jr.
1917-2010

10 LC 94 2993
House Resolution 1877
By: Representative Greene of the 149th

A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Grady Holman, Jr.; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens with the passing of Mr. Grady Holman, Jr.; and WHEREAS, Mr. Holman was born on February 2, 1917, in Blakely, Georgia, a beloved son of Grady Holman, Sr. and May Fulton Holman; and WHEREAS, a graduate of Blakely Union High School, Mr. Holman earned a bachelor's degree from Clemson University, where he was a standout member of the school's varsity football team; and WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States military during World War II, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans as a member of Company B, 60th Infantry, 9th Division during campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, and Rhineland; and WHEREAS, during his military career, Mr. Holman received a Distinguished Service Cross, a Distinguished Unit Badge, a Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters, a European African Middle Eastern Theater Medal with four bronze stars, an American Theater Medal, and a Victory Medal; and WHEREAS, Mr. Holman diligently and conscientiously devoted his time, talents. And energy to the residents of Early County for 28 years as the county's land surveyor and owned Holman Land Surveying; and WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to Mary Lodge Holman, on January 3, 1940, and was blessed with four remarkable children, Grady, James, Celia, and Nancy; and WHEREAS, the gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his family and friends were admired by others; and WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with and unimpeachable reputation integrity intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he made this world a better place in which to live; and WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Holman will long be remembered for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, patriot, brother, and friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. Grady Holman, Jr., and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Grady Holman, Jr.



FLORIDA CHAPTER

An Enjoyable Reunion: The Florida Chapter Reunion Committee takes pride in organizing well planned and enjoyable reunions year after year and it was evident on April 28, 29 & 30 at the Ocean Shore Resort in Daytona Beach. The fun started the moment one stepped inside the Hospitality Room.

Everyone helped themselves to food, refreshments, and the camaraderie when friends meet. On Wednesday night the group feasted on pizza with different toppings, chicken wings, scrumptious salad, beer, sodas, wine or the good stuff. This was followed by a sing-along, story telling until bedtime. On Thursday morning the group went on a tour to the Angell & Phelps Chocolate Factory to see how chocolate is made. The "free samples" were so delicious that several member bought different varieties to take home. At night the Olive Garden restaurant had a separate section waiting for us. They treated us to coffee and dessert. The business meeting was held on Friday morning. Highlights of the meeting were: (1) to continue holding annual reunions; (2) to continue collecting dues from the membership; (3) allow the Women's Auxiliary to participate in our meetings and hold office in our chapter. The results of the election of new officers were as follows: Joe King, President; Faye Moser, Vice President; Audrey De Donato, Secretary; Emil De Donato, Treasurer; H.F. Stansell, Chaplain.

During the free time some members tested the Atlantic Ocean waters while a few took a dip in the big pool. Others chose to stay close to the Hospitality Room sipping a drink or two or just "hang out" by the pool. On Friday evening the group went back to the Olive Garden for dinner then to the Daytona Beach Playhouse to see a comedy play "Lettice and Lovage." Newly elected Florida Chapter President Joe King commented "I am truly impressed and regret it took me and my wife this long before attending a Florida Chapter reunion." The reunion committee promises the 2011 chapter reunion will be just as enjoyable...God willing.

Dues Payment: When paying your National dues please make your check payable to "The Ninth Infantry Division Association" and send it to Bill Robey, [REDACTED]

National dues are \$15 for one year, \$35 for three years and \$75 for a life membership. Florida Chapter dues are \$5 for one year, \$13 for three years and \$50 for a life membership.

Taps Sounded

Henry Endy: His caregiver sent a note stating that Henry passed away on February 11, 2010 and to discontinue sending any correspondences including *The Octofoil*.

Arnold Tomanek: After a long illness, Arnold, age 92, went to meet his Lord on May 8, 2010. He is survived by his wife Louise, two daughters, Carolyn Smith and Joan Hutchison. He was laid to rest at the Cape Coral Cemetery. Arnold and his wife attended many National and Florida Chapter reunion. They were a pleasure to know and be with. Arnold served with Service Company, 39th Infantry all through Africa, Sicily, Normandy, France, Belgium and into Germany. Louise would like to continue receiving *The Octofoil*. Condolences may be sent to Louise Tomanek, [REDACTED]

News From Our Members

Carlos Esteva: Enclosed with his \$13 dues check, Carlos wrote a note stating that due to his battle wounds and 4 slight heart attacks kept him from attending our Daytona Beach reunion. He is convalescing at his home in Arecho, Puerto Rico. Carlos served in Company G, 39th Infantry Regiment. He sends his "Best Wishes" and "Good Health" to everyone in the chapter.

Ruth Gray: Good News!!! Ruth has made considerable progress health wise since her mild stroke on March 12. She was hospitalized at the Palms of Pasadena Hospital where she received "one on one" rehabilitation treatments. Towards the end of March,

(continued next column)

Eddie and his wife boarded a plane to go to their summer home in Normandy Beach, N.J. to be closer to their family. Ruth no longer uses a walker and walks half a mile on sunny days. The stroke left her partial use of her left arm and fingers, some vision damage in her left eye and some loss of speech. She can carry on a conversation with friends but has some difficulty in expressing herself. Their plans for the future is to sell their property in St. Petersburg and move into the Erickson Retirement Communities in Pompton Plains, N.J. Please continue offering your prayers for Ruth's complete recovery. As Eddie quoted "God willing, Ruth and I will attend future chapter meetings but for now thanks for your thoughts and prayers."

Joseph Williams: "I wish I could be there but I can't walk and have vision failure" is what Joe wrote in his note sent together with his dues payment. The chapter owes a deep gratitude to Joe and his wife, Dotty. They worked very hard recruiting members to form the chapter back in 1981. Joe was chairman of the 1990 National reunion held in Orlando. His wife was diagnosed with cancer and passed away on November 6, 2009. Joe misses Dotty very much and so do we.

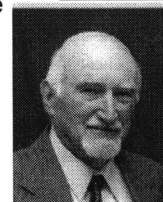
Wally Richardson: He wrote "Here is my dues for 3 more years. I may not last that long." Yes you will...we want to see you at our 2011 reunion. We were happy to learn that Wally is feeling much better after spending three days in the hospital. He has attended many chapter reunions driving alone from his home in Franklin, Ind. Wally is a regular phone caller and we appreciate every one of them.

Dora Coen: Her sister, Norma Ruschell, wrote stating that Dora had some surgery which required the insertion of a stent and a pacemaker. Dora is felling okay and left her Florida home to spend the summer months up north. Norma is busy fixing her home and tending to the many chores around her big property. **Ira and Faye Moser:** What a treat to see Ira looking and feeling well enough to attend our Daytona Beach reunion after his battle with cancer. They arrived four days early and enjoyed their ocean front room, the Atlantic Ocean and the fine weather. They met up with Marty and Rosalyn Gross, Audrey and Emil on Wednesday who arrived a day earlier to set up the Hospitality Room. After all chores were completed, they enjoyed dinner and a few drinks before retiring.

Searching

If anyone knows the whereabouts of Peter and Jeanne Uhl, Milton and Rose Hyman, and/or William McDonald, please send that information to me, Emil De Donato. Their mail has been returned with "forwarding address unknown."

News Wanted: Please send any news, your email address or any changes in your home address to Emil De Donato, [REDACTED]



Marv Levy

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

The day was sunny and warm as the N.Y. Chapter held its annual Memorial Service at the VA National Cemetery in Farmingdale, Long Island, N.Y. on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 15, 2010. From the parking lot, at 11:00 a.m. the group proceeded by cars down the Boulevard of Flags to the speaker's rostrum. In years past members would march proudly with our 9th

Division Assn. and American Flag standards, accompanied by the escorted Octofoil wreath. The passing years have limited our physical marches. We no longer have the standards since they were turned over to a previous reunion committee a few years ago. The Octofoil wreath was removed from Joe Maiale's car and placed in front of the rostrum. With the group seated on folding chairs beneath a plastic canopy, 1st VP Anton Dietrich began

(continued on page 9)

(... NEW YORK AREA...continued from page 8)

the service by calling all to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag. The cemetery crew then played a recording of the Star Spangled Banner. Chapter Chaplain Joe Killen gave the convocation. A moment of silence and reflection was observed for our deceased 4,581 WWII buddies and those MIAs and POWs. Killen, Joe Maiale and Tony Varone also expressed their poignant thoughts.

At the closing of the service recorded TAPS were played. Maiale suggested we hold no after-service meeting as we normally would, and go directly to the Spartan restaurant nearby for lunch. Everyone agreed. Maiale offered the assistant cemetery director to join the group for lunch but he had other business to attend to. Those who attended but not mentioned above: Charlotte Dietrich, Sadie Maiale, Bill Muldoon, Viola Varone and Al Zenka. (Since this scribe could not attend, due to illness, this report is written from combined member statements).

LAST MEETING BEFORE SUMMER HIATUS

On Friday, June 18, 2010 the N.Y. Chapter met at its regular command post in the Franklin Square Library, Franklin Square, L.I., N.Y. The meeting was attended by Anton Dietrich, Joe Killen, Marv Levy, Joe Maiale, Tony Varone and Al Zenka. 1st VP Dietrich began the meeting with our regular opening ceremony. Minutes of the previous meeting (actually the Memorial Service described above) was read by this scribe, followed by the Financial Report given by Secretary-Treasurer Maiale who provided the pizza lunch. Maiale also reported the passing of Domer Miller's wife Norma. The chapter sends condolences to the Miller family.

After some discussion regarding the Indianapolis reunion and other 9th business the meeting was adjourned. We then turned to Joe Killen to hear about his recent two-week Safari in Africa with his girl friend, Mary, and personal native guide. Joe described their exploits with words and photos in the Serengeti Plain, meeting with a Masai tribe and the thrill of closeup with the animals. We applauded Joe's adventurous spirit who, now in his 80's, missed the excursion to Africa in 1942 with the 47th Inf. - because he was too young for service then!

The N.Y. Chapter wishes all Ninthmen and their families a happy and healthy summer. Next meeting will be on Friday, September 17, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

Marv Levy, Recording Secretary



Judy Goldsmith
President
Ladies Auxiliary

LADIES CORNER

Are you ready to celebrate at July's reunion? What are we celebrating your probably wondering. The fact that another year has passed and we are once again able to gather together with our extended families to catch up on what has happened during the past year after we left Bangor, Maine. For Willy and I, one of the very special events of that reunion was going to the airport to welcome our service personnel of today. If you belong to AARP, perhaps you saw the

article that was published in the AARP magazine in April. The article was about movies voted best by seniors. "Best Documentary" was about the greeters who meet the planes almost everyday. There also was a picture of one of the elderly greeters along with a soldier. I would like to see that documentary someday.

Now is the time to plan for 2010 reunion in Indianapolis. The Ladies Auxiliary will hold their annual meeting and luncheon at the hotel. Details will be listed in your program. Most important, have you sent your check for the luncheon, \$17, and you dues, \$5, for the year? One check for a total of \$22 is okay. Make payable to: Ladies Auxiliary Ninth Infantry Division. If you are not able to attend the reunion, send in your dues. All gets mailed to: Jean Geary, [REDACTED]

As my article goes to press we have 24 members confirmed. If you haven't done so yet, please let Jean know that you will be there. Her email is: [REDACTED]

We need raffle items so please bring them along with you or forward them to Jean no later than July 15. Pollyanna items must be brought to the luncheon, don't forget.

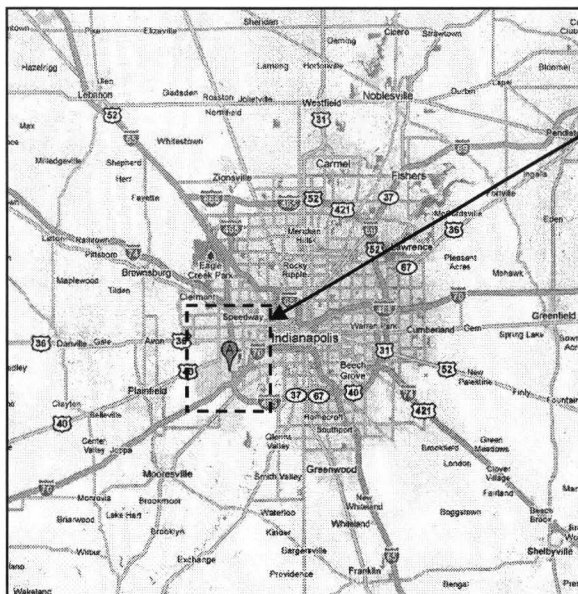
Willy and I are arriving at the hotel in the afternoon of July 28. If you need to contact me with any questions please call me there.

We lost some of our friends since last year's reunion. My heart goes out to their families. When this happens, many feel so lost that they do not come to the next reunions. Remember the many memories of years gone by with happiness. We will miss that person, but do not want to miss you too. So come, rejoin your friends. I am sure he or she would want it this way.

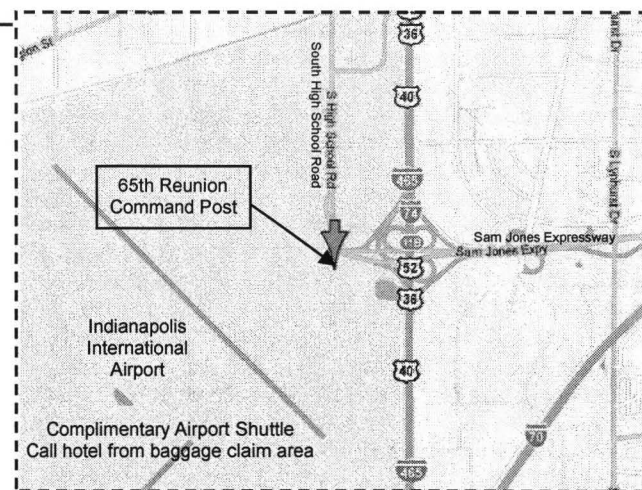
Sincerely,

Judy Goldsmith, President Ladies Auxiliary

MAP AND DRIVING DIRECTIONS
Crowne Plaza Hotel Indianapolis Airport
2501 South High School Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46241



DETAIL MAP AREA



FROM THE SOUTH ON I-74 OR I-65: Take I-465 West/North to Indianapolis Sam Jones Expressway West Exit #11B. Exit #11B will take you to stop light. Turn left onto High School Road. Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport is directly to the left.

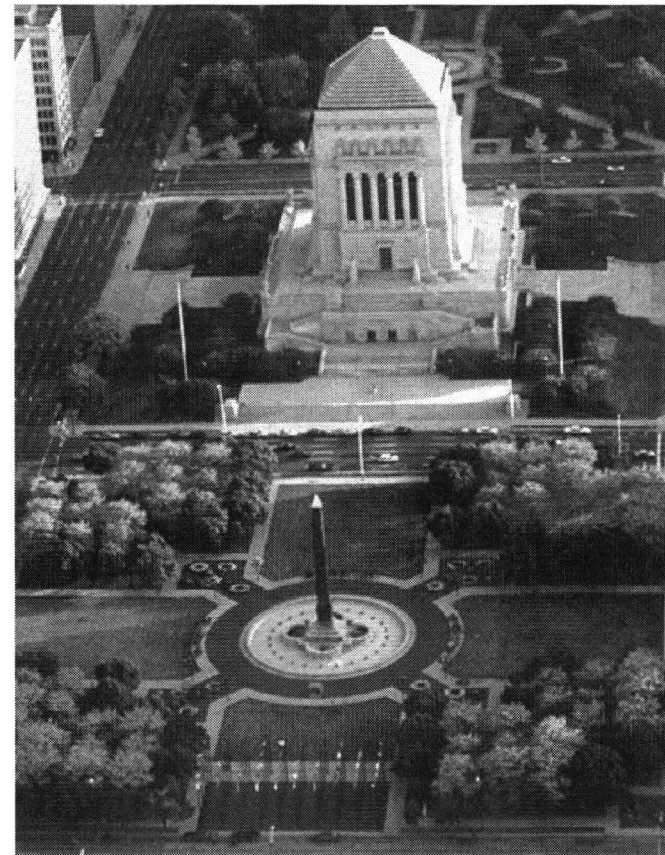
FROM THE NORTH ON I-65: Take I-465 South to the Indianapolis Sam Jones Expressway West Exit #11B. At the stop light make a left onto High School Road. Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport is directly to the left.

FROM THE NORTH ON I-69: Take I-465 to the Indianapolis Sam Jones Expressway West Exit #11B. At the stop light make a left onto High School Road. Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport is directly on the left.

FROM THE EAST ON I-70: Take I-70 West through town. Take Sam Jones Expressway all the way to the stop light. Make a left onto High School Road. Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport is to the left.

FROM THE WEST ON I-70: Take I-70 East to I-465 North. Take I-465 North to Indianapolis Sam Jones Expressway West Exit #11B. Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport is on your left.

Note: If you get lost call the hotel front desk for help. Phone: 317-244-6861



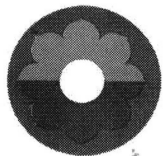
Things To Do During Down Times

The Indiana War Memorial Plaza Historic District contains two museums, three parks, and 24 acres of monuments, statues, sculptures, and fountains in the heart of downtown Indianapolis, making the state's capital second only to Washington D.C. in acreage and number of monuments dedicated to veterans. It is also home to the national and state headquarters of the American Legion. The War Memorial Commission operates these facilities in pursuit of its primary mission: to commemorate the valor and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces and especially to honor Hoosier veterans and Indiana's role in the nation's conflicts.

Metered parking is available on all four sides of the War Memorial (Meridian, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Vermont Streets) and just outside Monument Circle during the week. Parking is free on Saturday and Sunday. The main entrance to the War Memorial is on Michigan Street. There are also surface lots and parking garages within walking distance of both the War Memorial and the Soldiers & Sailors Monument. No admission fees to the two museums. Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

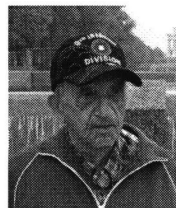
The Museum of 20th Century Warfare at Fort Harrison State Park is another fun military themed offsite activity. The museum displays artifacts and uniforms from all branches of the military from 1910 through Operation Desert Storm in Iraq. A model of the USS Indianapolis, which was sunk by Japanese torpedoes during World War II, also will be displayed. Veterans and uniformed re-enactors will be available to answer questions. Entrance to the museum is free, but admission to the park is \$5 for Indiana residents and \$7 for out-of-state residents. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wed.-Sun. For information, contact the park office at (317) 591-0122.

Two more popular destinations for family here in the city are the Indianapolis Zoo and the Children's Museum The Zoo Pricing: Adult admission is \$11.60 and child admission is \$7.60-the tickets are usually available at the hotel front desk. The Children's Museum Pricing: Adult admission is \$10.60 and child admission is \$6.95-the tickets are usually available at the hotel front desk.



Chaplain/Captain Anthony F. DeLaura

By Anthony R. DeRobertis
L Company, 47th Infantry Regiment



Anthony R. DeRobertis

I went to Normandy Beach, France as a replacement in a combat infantry division four days after "D Day." I was taken to the 3rd Battalion at night and the first sergeant in a house told me to find a place to sleep. I woke up the next morning to see that I slept next to a dead woman who was killed by the Germans. We took her body and placed it outside.

I was told by the first sergeant to go with Chaplain Father DeLaura to where a dead American soldier was laying. Father DeLaura and I said a few prayers and he took one of the dog tags off of the deceased soldier's neck and gave it to the first sergeant as a KIA (Killed in Action). The first sergeant told me that I will replace the company runner who was killed by a mortar shell. I was given a walkie talkie and a carbine rifle. We fought in the hedgerows and I was to be with the company C.O. I had to follow behind the C.O.

As I was passing through the hedgerow, a mortar shell fell to the ground in front of me but it did not explode. Fortunately for me, it was a dud. We did not gain much distance in the hedgerows. A blade was put in front of the tank to push through the hedgerow. Now it was full speed ahead and my division moved fast through the combat areas of Cherbourg Peninsula, Saint Lo and the Felice Gap.

At night, we would dig fox holes and I had to see the platoon sergeants and give them the new passwords and counter-sign for the night. I would get back to my fox hole and say prayers and ask God to keep me safe. I would always pray when I had the chance and so would my other buddies.

Word would get out that a buddy was wounded or killed. At times when it was possible, Father DeLaura would have a Mass for us. He would have his jeep hood set up as an altar and we would get on our knees to pray. After his Mass, if he was able to finish it, he would give confession. We would go into the woods and wait for him behind a tree. When it was my turn, I got behind the tree and said the "Act of Contrition" and a bless my Father. I told Father DeLaura that I didn't have any sins. He said that I missed Mass last Sunday. I said to Father that we do not get Sundays off because we are fighting a war.

The next time I saw Father DeLaura he was able to have a Mass in a church in a town that we took. The church was filled to capacity. Inside were Catholics, Protestants and Jews. All were welcomed by our priest.

After Mass, we left the church and got on trucks to fight the war in another town. I saw two priests in front of the steps of a Catholic Church. They were lying on the ground, dead. They were killed by the German soldiers. We got there too late.

I next fought in the Battle of the Bulge. On March 7, 1945, I was one of the first soldiers to walk across the Remagen Bridge with my battalion. We met the Russians at the Elbe River. Then we got on trucks and went to Dachau concentration camp. Throughout this time Father DeLaura was there to guide and help us. Finally, the war was over.

During the occupation of Germany I was denied a pass for furlough. All of my friends were going and I was chosen to stay back at the camp. Father DeLaura got me the pass to fly to Nice, France. The last time I saw him was the 9th Division meeting in New York City. He had received both the Silver Star and Bronze Star Medals. My Army buddies and I will always remember Father Anthony F. DeLaura. He was a priest doing God's work.

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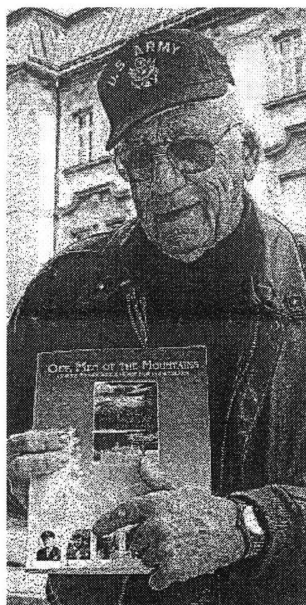
"At 7:30 A.M. the attack commenced. The 9th Infantry Division advanced swiftly against light opposition. Still there were casualties, and some were incurred in a minefield. The medics hesitated as the wounded cried out for help. Not Captain (Father) Anthony DeLaura. He went into the uncharted field of sudden death and voluntarily evacuated ten casualties. Then he was wounded himself, but he continued his work of mercy, evacuating more wounded. In the Hürtgen even the dog collar of a man of God was not proof against enemy weapons."

The Battle of Hürtgen Forest
By Charles Whiting

Source: *Knight News*, Our Lady of Victory Knights of Columbus Council #12114, May 2010

Go-Devil As Liberator From Tyranny

Ingolstadt (DK) A Go-Devil remembers: Private First Class Charles Illsley from the famous 60th Infantry Regiment of the US Army was stationed in Germany from 1945 till 1947. The veteran, who found his true love in Ingolstadt, is visiting the city on a regular basis in the last 65 years.



Return of a veteran: Charles "Chuck" Illsley was stationed as a US soldier after the war in the district court in the Neubaustasse (Neubau street) in Ingolstadt. On his collar he wears the official sign of the Go-Devils, his unit.

When on 26 April 1945 the first U.S. tanks emerged in the vicinity of the Danube rowing clubs, part of Ingolstadt was in ruins. The Allied air raids had destroyed several houses and called 625 victims among the civilian population. Thanks to the combat commander Paul Weinzierl, Ingolstadt remained spared from complete destruction: The courageous Major of Ingolstadt refused the ordered defense to the last round. Nevertheless, a devastating picture was offered to the liberators: "It was a mess," remembers Charles Illsley about the period after zero hour.

65 years after the war, the now 84 year old American is sitting in a café in Ingolstadt. On his head he wears a baseball cap of the U.S. Army. The official badge of the 60th Infantry Regiment adorn the collar of his brown leather jacket. Illsley, who as a soldier (Private) in Company G of the 2nd Battalion is a former "Go-Devil." So called the infantry of the famous U.S. combat unit, their equipment adorned with a 'storming forward devil' motto. With his own eyes Private Illsley saw the consequences of the truly diabolical Nazi regime. The young U.S. soldier was among the liberators of the concentration camp Dora-Mittelbau. "I did not hate the Germans then, but the leaders who were responsible."

After the shocking experiences during the liberation of the concentration camp, Chuck, as he was nicknamed, first relocated in early June 1945 to the town of Manching. The U.S. soldiers were housed in the destroyed barracks at the airport-"that was better than sleeping on the ground"-and spent the days with countless maneuvers. Charles Illsley was impressed by the many breweries and the large hop fields south of Ingolstadt. "At first I thought, these are devices for the defense of paratroopers," the

(continued on page 13)



Monsignor DeLaura

(Go-Devil As Liberator...continued from page 12)

veteran said with a grin. And then he looks back on the Sunday that was a crucial mark in his life. During a trip to Ingolstadt, he met Elizabeth, who was called Elli, by everyone.

"It was love at first sight," says Illsley and told how he just wanted to seize the bike of the pretty young German woman and then stayed together with Elli till dinner. The two just talked by using their hands a lot and still understood each other. It was a dangerous flirt: Fraternization of the U.S. occupiers was forbidden. "We always had to watch out for the military police." Nevertheless, it grew into a two-year relationship that survived quite a few dislocations. Private Illsley was used several times at different locations in Germany and serve as a guard of SS commanders in the former concentration camp of Dachau.

Finally, the young GI came back to Ingolstadt. As a staff member of Colonel James A. Crewe, who led the civil court in the district court in the Neubaustasse (Neubau Street), Chuck took care of the fleet and the kitchen. Illsley regularly traveled into the countryside to the farmers and exchanged cigarettes for fresh food. What could have been a really happy time by the side of his beloved Ingolstadter girlfriend, turned into a personal tragedy: Elli became ill with cancer and died at the age of 27 years in a hospital in Ingolstadt. She was buried in the Westfriedhof (west cemetery). Charles Illsley paid for the tombstone with a few cartons of Camel cigarettes. He finished his tour of duty as a Sergeant in Germany in 1947.

The mourning for this great love is still noticeable with Chuck, even decades after the death of his Elli. Again and again he went to Ingolstadt and the grave, although he started a family in the United States and worked as a qualified geologist (specialty uranium) on the secret nuclear bomb program of the Americans. Today Charles Illsley usually lives in Grand Lake in the Rocky Mountains. The local Rotary Club dedicated a biography to the veteran and his comrades, who fought among others in Vietnam or Korea. Chuck regularly takes part in the commemorations and meets as often as possible with his friends from Ingolstadt. "I am proud and happy to have brought peace to Germany," concludes Charles Illsley of his war experiences. And recommends: "Never give up! Always go on."

Translated and reprinted from *Lokales*, Seite 29, DK Nr. 77, Samstag/Sonntag/Montag, 3./4./5. April 2010

Possible New Orleans-Caribbean Cruise

By Judy Goldsmith

I am planning on putting a trip together for our veterans and families sometime in November 2011. We will spend three days in New Orleans and then go on a seven day Caribbean cruise round trip to New Orleans.

If you are interested in going on this trip please contact me as soon as possible.

My office phone number is 800-248-0388 extension 218 or send an email to: judy.g@travelsyndicate.com or you can use

Editor's Note

Website Crashed April 2010

Our website (www.octofoil.org) suffered a catastrophic accident in early April and has been out of service since. At this time there is no estimate for recovery. All the material that was stored on the site has been lost. Our web administrator had sent the drivers out to an independent company specializing in data recovery, the estimated cost to restore some, but not all data was extremely high. Therefore, no attempt will be made to recover this lost data. A new site will have to be built from the ground up. This is an unfortunate development as the site was beginning to look promising in terms of use and availability of historical materials.

For those members who had signed up to receive their newsletter by establishing an account on the website this is no longer an option. Starting with this issue of the newsletter you will now receive a paper copy through the U.S. mail. If and when a new site is developed the option of accessing the newsletter online will be revisited.

If you have any questions regarding this issue please feel free to contact me as shown below.

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

Please notify me of address changes to ensure timely and accurate delivery of your newsletter. This is particularly important for those who travel to warmer weather during the winter months. It is very easy for me to change your mailing label so you can receive your newsletter at your winter address. Just clue me in when it's time to move.

William Sauers, Editor
The Octofoil
2960 West 234th Street
Torrance, CA 90505-4104
310-534-3146
E-mail: wgsauers@gmail.com

Légion d' Honneur Legion of Honor

Consulate General of France

Donald E. Crass
Phelps, Wisconsin
December 14, 2009

Donald Crass of Phelps was recently awarded the French Legion of Honor award during a ceremony at Phelps School.

The award, created by Napoleon Bonaparte, is France's highest honor.

Following the presentation, Crass spoke about some of his military experiences, using written materials he has saved over the years.

Crass was born June 13, 1919, in Newburg, the son of Joseph and Edna Crass. He and his wife, Fayne, have been married for 60 years and have four children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He is a member

Phelps American Legion representative William Kosky, right, congratulates Donald Crass of Phelps on receiving the Legion of Honor award from the French government, presented to those who have achieved remarkable deeds for France.

Photo by Sharon Gifford

of Phelps American Legion Post 548 and St. John's Lutheran Church.

"The good Lord had a job for me to do serving in the military-encouraging others-and now taking care of my wife, who is in a wheelchair," he said.

*Reprinted from Vilas County News
Article by Sharon Gifford
December 2009*

A reminder to honor all veterans

By Brandon Crass, Freshman
Phelps High School

France recently recognized Donald Crass for his service in World War II. The Knight of Legion of Honor is the highest award the French government can give a foreign citizen. The award isn't just handed out to anyone. A person must have strong personal character and done something great for France.

Donald Crass gave his service more than 60 years ago to help liberate France, and he has just received this award, showing it can take time for a person to receive this.

I am proud that he received this award, and not just because he is related to me. My great-uncle, as well as other World War II veterans, had a large amount of courage to enter World War II to fight for our freedom. We as citizens of the United States and the North Woods should be proud that someone from our area has received such a major award.

But just because he won an award doesn't mean that we should be proud for the time being; we should always think of what those veterans have done for us.

The veterans service allowed our country to be free and we need to always remember how difficult of times they went through. Many people don't even realize what World War II was like or what the veterans had to go through. Award winners like my great-uncle will always make us remember their sacrifices.

*Reprinted from Vilas County News
December 2009*

Lawrence T. Faulkner
Simi Valley, California
May 8, 2010



Retired Army Master Sgt. Lawrence Faulkner of Simi Valley received the Legion of Honor Medal for distinguished service in France during World War II.

At 88, Army veteran Larry Faulkner figured his war medal days were far behind him. He was wrong.

It turns out, the Bronze Star he won for bravery, the two Silver Star he received for valor-not to mention the three Purple Hearts he earned for wounds suffered during World War II and the Korean War-weren't enough.

One more was coming and it wasn't even from his own country.

"Hey, Sue, listen to this. The French want to give

me the Legion of Honor," Faulkner yelled to his wife of 52 years as he sat in the living room of their Simi Valley home, reading the official letter he received last month.

"I'll be darned, Imagine that."

Yeah, imagine that.

France's highest civilian honor being awarded to the son of a Kentucky coal miner-a skinny teenager everyone called Popeye back during the Great Depression because his arms grew so muscular from shoveling gravel to build roads for the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In honor of the 60th anniversary of VE Day in 2004, the French government began honoring a handful of U.S. soldiers and Marines every year who'd distinguished themselves in combat while serving in France during World War II.

Last Saturday night, at the Los Angeles residence of French Consul General David Martinon, Faulkner and three other veterans were honored.

"I thought it would be boring, but it turned out to be pretty interesting, meeting everyone and hearing their stories," Larry said Monday.

He admits he was a hot-headed kid when he enlisted in the Army at 17 with his parents' blessing.

After months of stateside training in amphibious landings, Faulkner got into a bar fight the night before his company was set to ship out.

"I got busted down from sergeant to corporal, and transferred over to Easy Company, which was fine with me because my step-brother Ernie Doxsey was in it.

"They made me sergeant again, and a few days later we're shipping out headed for North Africa to meet the devil-Rommel."

Nicknamed the Desert Fox, German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel was considered the most skilled commander of desert warfare. And he had three tank divisions in Tunisia sitting on Hill 269-high ground the Allies wanted badly.

"They really laid it on us," Faulkner said. "It took us 11 days and a lot of dead and wounded men to take that hill."

Faulkner was awarded his first Silver Star in that action for carrying a wounded man to safety, with gunfire hailing all around them.

(continued on page 15)

(Faulkner...continued from page 14)

"I didn't know what the Silver Star was," he said. "We all knew what the Purple Heart was, though."

Shrapnel wounds in his hands, knees and legs earned him those three Purple Hearts, along with his second Silver Star for valor in action near Cherence Le Roussel, France in August 1944.

Faulkner retired as a master sergeant after a 26-year Army career, then worked 22 years as a security guard for Hughes Aircraft before retiring for good in 1987.

He figured his war medal days were far behind him. He was wrong.

*Reprinted from Dailynews.com
Article by Dennis McCarthy
May 2010*



**Sir Captain
Victor M. Marotti**
Matawan, New Jersey
November 11, 2009

What do Gen. Douglas MacArthur, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill have in common with 88-year old Aberdeen resident Victor M. Marotti?

Answer: All are recipients of the Legion d'Honneur, the highest honor awarded in France.

Marotti, along with 10 other American veterans of World War II, was awarded the Chevalier-or "gentlemen" rank of the Legion d'Honneur-at the French Consulate in New York on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the award recognizes eminent services to the French Republic. Recipients are named by decree signed by the president of the republic.

Marotti and the other veterans were presented with the famous insignia by Consul General Phillippe Lalliot at the ceremony held at the consulate.

Marotti downplayed his award but said he was glad to meet with fellow World War II veterans. "I met a few of the old veterans there, and we talked to most of them."

Marotti served in the U.S. Army, 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Division, during World War II, participating in landings in Africa, Sicily and Normandy. On June 10, 1944, four days after D-Day, Marotti landed on Utah Beach in Normandy.

All in all, Marotti fought in eight separate European campaigns. He was honorably discharged from the Army in September 1945 with the rank of captain, earning the Purple Heart and numerous other citations.

After the war, Marotti returned to the Bronx, where he eventually became insurance manager for Africa and the Middle Ears for American International Group, an insurance and financial services company.

Marotti and his family moved to Aberdeen in 1963.

While in the Army, Marotti was executive officer to Capt. Charles Scheffel of the 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment.

Scheffel is the author of *Crack! and Thump; With a Combat Infantry Officer in World War II*, which has been used as source material for five of the episodes of the current History Channel series, *The Greatest Generation in Color: WWII HD* that began airing on Sunday, Nov. 15.

*Reprinted from Asbury Park Press
Article by Jim McConville
November 2009*

MAIL CALL

MAIL CALL

History Projects Robert Clark

I am a historian researching aspects of military history and I would very much like to correspond with any veterans in regard to these projects.

I would like to correspond with any WWII veteran. If the veteran has a spouse or any relatives that remember WWII (including spending the war on the home front) I would like to hear from them as well. I am interested in corresponding with veterans from other eras as well-Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, other Cold War or late 20th Century conflicts, etc.

Another project also includes veterans (from any era) that have an "animal story" to tell. Whether this was working with military animals (guard dogs, cavalry horses, messenger pigeons, etc.), mascots, encounters with wildlife (humorous or dangerous) or sightings of unusual or strange animals...let me know about these stories.

The final project is any veteran (from any era) who has experienced unusual, psychic or unexplained experiences. This could include ghost sightings, premonitions, good luck charms, near death experiences, secret military equipment/technology, too fighter (UFO) or USO (underwater objects) sightings, experiencing miracles, encounters with legends of local cultures (vampires, werewolves, witchcraft, etc.); deceased comrades appearing to someone, unusual animal encounters...and any other type of similar experiences.

So if this letter can be shared at reunions, printed in a newsletter, announced at meetings or shared with other veterans; I would be very appreciative. I very much would like to learn of veterans and their military service; and the two sub-category topics of military animal stories and unusual/unexplained experiences.

I will be respectful of any replies whether the general request for military experience stories or the two sub-category topics (animals and unusual experiences). Thank you.

Sincerely, Robert Clark

Donald E. Crass

In the Jan.-Feb. and March issue of *The Octofoil Mail Call* I read Richard Beaumont's article on our attack on Konzen which was a divisionary attack to confuse the Germans.

We started our attack in a wooded area marching fire. After going a short distance our Lieutenant was shot in the leg. We kept going until we reached the edge of the town. And here is where we were pinned down by deadly accurate sniper fire. Not being able to move ahead the code was given. Empty mess kits return.

After getting the rest of our squad together with one wounded GI four of us one on each corner of the stretcher. We had to keep our heads down until our artillery opened fire. Then we would get up and go about a few hundred feet and then hit the ground and wait for the next barrage of artillery so we could move. This was done until we got out.

Once out with the wounded GI Lt. Powles came up to me and put his arms around me and said sure am glad to see you got out.

Also wish to mention I received the Knight Legion of Honor in Oct. of '09 and was presented it on Dec. 14 at the Phelps High School. Enclosed is picture and article.

Signed, Donald E. Crass

Robert A. Watts

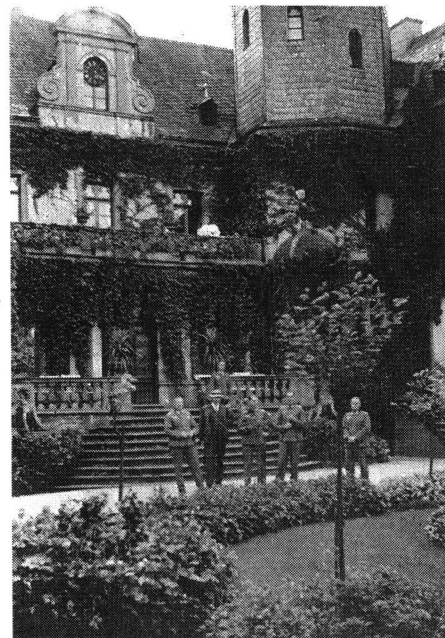
I am enclosing some pictures of the castle the 2nd Bn., 47th Inf. Reg. stayed at the night March 7, 1945. For some reason K Company was attached to the 2nd Bn. I found these in a trunk in the attic. The German Count that lived there said he had nothing to do with the war but one of the pictures shows him with some German officers. The other two pictures were taken after the bombing on July 25, 1944 of St. Lo. The 9th QM had the job of picking up the dead German soldiers.

I was radio operator for Cannon Company, 2nd Platoon and our O.P. crew was assigned to the 2nd Bn. for Cannon support.

If anyone has a copy of Lt. Gen. Maness' book about the 2nd Bn. I would gladly pay for it as we walked across the bridge before daylight on March 8, 1945.

Best wishes to all our members.

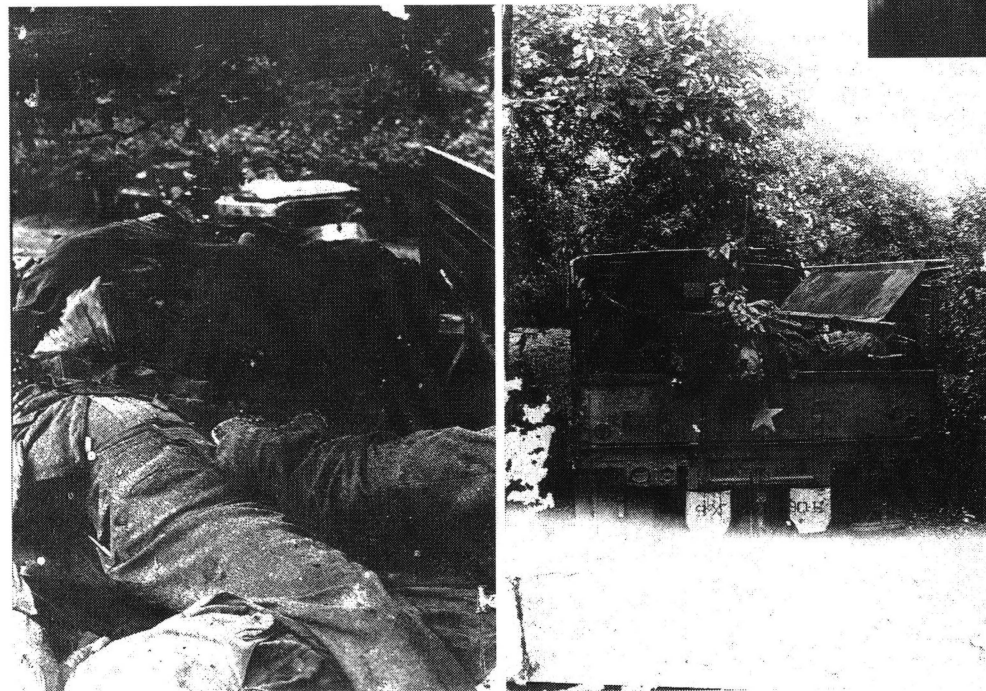
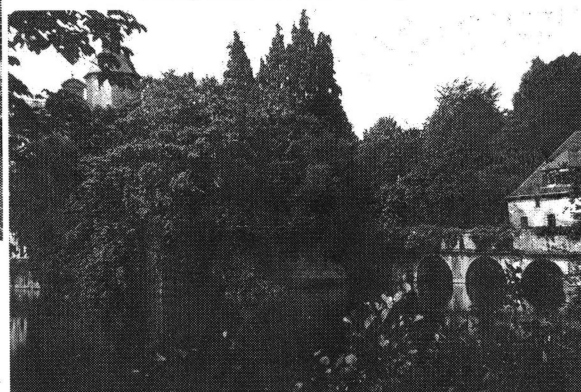
I remain, Robert A. Watts



German Count, second from left.



Not far from Bonn, Germany
2nd Bn., 47th Regt. plus K Company rested here before leaving on March 7th for Remagen.



After bombing of St. Lo, July 25, 1944
9th Quartermaster picking up dead German soldiers

The Literary Ninth

Book Reviews

By Henry G. "Red" Phillips
Association Historian

(Ed. Note: Continued from Apr.-May-Jun., 2009;
Volume LXIV, No.2)

Phillips, Henry Gerard (M Co. & 3rd Bn., 47th Inf.) El Guettar: Crucible of Leadership. Military oral history of the 9th Infantry Division in combat against German-Italian *Afrika Korps* in southern Tunisia, 28 March-7 April 1943. Self-published 1991. Author was a machine gun platoon leader until wounded in action 1 April 1943. Out-of-print.

Phillips, Henry Gerard (M Co. & 3rd Bn., 47th Inf.) Sedjenane: The Pay-off Battle. Military oral history of the 9th Infantry Division fighting German and Italian forces in northern Tunisia, 23 April-9 May 1943. Self-published 1993. Author assumed command of M Company on 10 May 1943. Limited copies available, contact the author.

Phillips, Henry Gerard (3rd Bn., 47th Inf.) Remagen: Springboard to Victory. Military oral history of the 9th Infantry Division's crossing of the Rhine River and subsequent expansion of the Remagen bridgehead 8-24 March 1945 so that the final U.S. offensive to join Soviet forces might be formed. Self-published 1995. Out-of-print.

Phillips, Henry Gerard (3rd Bn., 47th Inf.) The Making of a Professional: Manton S. Eddy, U.S.A. Biography of the 9th Infantry Division's Commanding General from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, until he was elevated to command of XII U.S. Corps, Third Army on 18 August 1944. Published 2000 & copies available from Greenwood Press, Westport, CT.

Phillips, Henry Gerard (3rd Bn., 47th Inf.) Heavy Weapons. A study of the leadership experienced by M Company, 47th Infantry Regiment from its company officers and higher commands throughout the 9th Infantry's eight WWII campaigns. Copies available from the author.

Contact: Lt. Col (Ret.) Henry G. Phillips, [redacted]

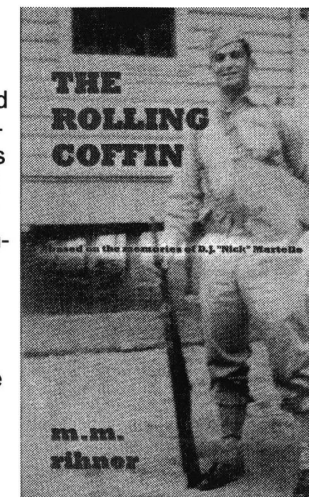
Powell, Ralph D. (Deceased) One of Many: A True Story of a Soldier. Out-of-print paperback by a now defunct publisher. This is a well-written account of a young Nebraskan who enlisted in the National Guard that was called into federal service late in 1940. Powell's first assignment with his unit of the 35th Inf. Div. was a shabby tent camp near Little Rock, Ark., where he learned the soldiery basics, drill, KP & guard duty. A year later, Pearl Harbor took the 35th Div. to Fort Ord, Calif., to defend against a feared invasion by the Japanese enemy. Powell's battalion was assigned to guard the beaches near Los Angeles. He was promoted to sergeant and selected to attend Infantry OCS at Ft. Benning, Ga. His class began on 28 May 1942 & graduated 90 days later. But, 2nd Lt. Powell had been selected to remain at The Infantry School for additional training as a cannon company officer. The cannon company was a new Army creation designed to bring a modicum of artillery firepower directly under the infantry regimental commander's control. It was first organized with the standard towed artillery 105-mm howitzers, and the pack 75-mm howitzers designed to be broken down for loading on mules. Later, 105's were mounted in Sherman tank chassis so they could be fired "in battery" like artillery, or used as assault weapons against machine gun positions or buildings in towns.

(continued next column)

Powell's memoir provides good insight to the 47th Inf.'s war in Africa, Sicily & France from the viewpoint of a company officer. Much of his time was spent caring for his men or supporting by fire the exertions of others in a most dangerous game, forward observing. He was usually supporting the regiment's 3rd Bn. One aspect of his career was decidedly different than that of other lieutenants. In Cefalu, Sicily, in the break between the island's conquest and sailing with the 9th Div. to England, he met and fell in love with an Army nurse. She stayed in the Mediterranean Theater, serving with her hospital unit at Anzio, & then Capt. Erna Frewald followed the invasion of Southern France. Powell followed the 3rd Bn., 47th Inf. to Normandy, witnessed the conquest of Cherbourg & on 25 July '44 near St. Lo was part of Lt. Col. Clayman's command group watching the aerial bombardment phase of *Operation Cobra*. When smoke & dust obscured the bomb safety markers, the 500-pound bombs began creeping toward the men. In the ensuing chaos, of perhaps 40 officers and enlisted men of the command group, only a few escaped death or severe wounding by the "friendly fire." Powell there in his role as Cannon Co. observer was severely wounded & evacuated to England for operation on his several wounds. He recovered & returned to his unit in late Nov. '44. A letter from Erna awaited him in which she responded favorably to his proposal to marry "when the opportunity permitted." Powell decided immediately that the opportunity was at hand. He spread about confusion as to his whereabouts & figuring that her hospital was somewhere near the Third U.S. Army headquarters, the AWOL Lt. began hitch hiking through the falling snow about 500 miles to Nancy, France. Miraculously, he found her unit & Erna. They made plans to get permission to marry from their respective commanders & Powell returned to his unit without having been missed. The advent of the Battle of the Bulge probably helped. By mid-Feb. military operations had slowed sufficiently so Powell could obtain permission to travel by jeep to Nancy and marry. Erna had done the same and with her friends had made all the arrangements for a gala ceremony. They had a few days together & then returned to their separate grinds for the days remaining before VE Day. After their discharge, they reunited & went back to Nebraska where Powell commenced a career as a Chamber of Commerce professional, ultimately settling in Sacramento, Calif. After retiring, playing much golf & writing this memoir for his family & friends, Major Ralph D. Powell died in the Palm Springs area.

New Book Available

The Rolling Coffin
By M.M. Rihner



Available from AuthorHouse, 1663
Liberty Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403
Tel. #800-839-8640
www.authorhouse.com

Based on the memoirs of D.J. "Nick"
Martello, Cannon Company, 39th
Infantry Regiment.

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