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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, October/November/December 2010

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil

Oct.-Nov.-Dec.,
2010

Volume LXV, No. 4



President
Paul Schumacher

President's Message

In the last issue I gave notice that some changes are going to be made regarding *The Octofoil* and membership categories. These changes are necessary to keep our newsletter financially sound and not dependent on support from General Funds. The bottom line is that if you want to receive the newsletter, you must pay for it, just like any other magazine or newspaper subscription. The costs for ink and paper will continue to increase as well as postage in the foreseeable future. Also, I wanted to give you as much advance notice as possible because on July 1, 2011 the following changes will be implemented:

Life Member: Beginning July 1, 2011 all Life Members will be required to pay an annual twenty dollar (\$20) subscription fee to continue receiving *The Octofoil*. Your life membership status in the association will not change nor will your membership card change, you will just have to start paying for the newsletter. Your payment will be due on or before September 20, 2011, otherwise you will be removed from the newsletter mailing list. This membership category will be discontinued.

Widow: Beginning July 1, 2011 all widows will be required to pay an annual twenty dollar (\$20) subscription fee to continue receiving *The Octofoil*. Your payment will be due on or before September 20, 2011, otherwise you will be removed from the newsletter mailing list. You will be considered an "Associate Member" which entitles you to receive a subscription to *The Octofoil*, but does not entitle you to have any voting rights in the affairs of the association. This coincides with the current association bylaws.

Regular Annual Member: Regular Annual Members whose dues expire on June 30, 2011 (see the mailing label for your expiration date) will renew at thirty-five dollars (\$35). Twenty dollars (\$20) will be applied to your subscription for *The Octofoil* and fifteen dollars (\$15) will be applied to your membership. Your payment will be due on or before September 20, 2011, otherwise you will be removed from the newsletter mailing list. If you choose to only pay fifteen dollars (\$15), as in the past, you will be considered a member in good standing and be issued a renewed membership card. However, you will not receive any further issues of the newsletter until the twenty dollar (\$20) subscription fee is paid. Upon receipt of your subscription payment your newsletter subscription expiration date will be adjusted accordingly.

Three Year Member: Three Year Members whose dues expire June 30, 2011 (see the mailing label for your expiration date) will renew as a Regular Annual Member at thirty-five dollars (\$35). Twenty dollars (\$20) will be applied to your subscription for *The Octofoil* and fifteen dollars (\$15) will be applied to your membership. Your payment will be due on or before September 20, 2011, otherwise you will be removed from the newsletter mailing list. Three Year Members whose dues expire June 30, 2012, or 2013, or 2014 will be honored until expiration and then converted to Regular Annual Member status at thirty-five dollars (\$35). This membership category will be discontinued. You will be issued a Regular Annual Member membership card as appropriate.

Associate Member: Descendants, friends, general public (aka Associate Member) who currently have a three year subscription to the newsletter that expires on June 30, 2011 will be converted to an annual renewal at twenty dollars (\$20) per year. Payment will be due on or before September 20, 2011. Your subscription date will be adjusted accordingly based on receipt of your payment. Associate Members whose subscription expires on June 30, 2012, or 2013, or 2014 will be honored until expiration and then converted to an annual renewal at twenty dollars (\$20) per year. This membership category will be retained for the time being as it only entitles individuals to receive the newsletter on a subscription basis; no associate member has voting rights in the affairs of the association. This coincides with the current association bylaws.

If you have any questions regarding the above changes please call me at 731-645-9013.

Clarence Ray has accepted the position to fill the unexpired term of Jack Collier on the Board of Directors until the next reunion.

Paul Schumacher, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Ed Note: See Summary Table of Subscription Fees and Membership Categories on page 14

www.octofoil.org

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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, William Sauers, on or before **March 20, 2011** is appreciated.

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

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.

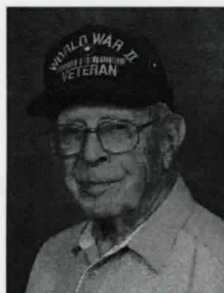
THE NINETY'S CLUB

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



Arno Heller (90)
Rego Park, N.Y.



Floyd W. Hennessey (90)
Lambertville, Mich.

Active Ninety's Club Members
72 Veterans + 1 Widow = 73 Total Members

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

I do not have much to report at this time except that I have had some minor medical problems during the past month. All is well now and I expect to have a complete Indianapolis reunion report next time.

Bill Robey, Secretary-Treasurer

2011 Reunion
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 12, 13 and 14, 2011

The reunion is shaping up pretty well and we have several reservations in already.

The downtown hotels do not run their own van service to the airport. There will be a charge for the shuttle to and from the airport, we are trying to negotiate special pricing for our members and guests. Costs in New Orleans are a little higher than in Indianapolis, but we have an agreement with the hotel to keep costs down as much as possible. For example, including room and tax in Indianapolis the rooms were \$107.00 per night, here in New Orleans the charge will be \$117.00 per night. A little higher, but not anywhere near the costs for a room if we were on the weekend schedule as in the past. Normal weekend room rates are \$169.00 per night, plus tax. The hotel is giving us our special rate if some want to arrive early or stay late and it runs into the weekend. They will not charge the higher weekend rate, but will honor our special rate 3 days before and 3 days after our reunion.

Remember to make your reservations as early as you can. It is easier to cancel a reservation than it is to make one at the last minute.

Hope to see you all there.

Bill Robey, Reunion Chairman

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

Nadine Collier in memory of her husband Jack Collier

George and Janet Brown in memory of Jack Collier

Madeline W. Beals in memory of Jack Collier

Donald Stibitz sustaining member donation to General Fund

Mildred A. Billington in memory of Ed Tyszka, Ann Tyszka, Ruth Nuweld, Helen Snyder, Albert Lubreno, Orville Stanzl, Marjorie Bovanizer, Louise Vicars

The Literary Ninth

Book Praises 9th Infantry Division-For the Bookshelf

Greetings from Red Phillips, historian of the 9th Inf. Div. Assn. and creator of the Bookshelf which contains over 100 books, whole or in part about the 9th's exploits in WWII. One book has been missing from our collection: *The GI Offensive in Europe, The Triumph of American Infantry Divisions, 1941-1945* by Col. Peter R. Mansoor, USA (Ret.) presently, Professor of Military History, Ohio State University. This book was published by the University Press of Kansas of Lawrence, Kansas from which copies (incl. paperback) are available. I have excerpted a small part of his excellent book in which he particularly lauds the 9th and explains why he singles us out of the many divisions which made up "The Great Crusade." Pages 250-251: *The combat divisions of the Army of the United States were not static organizations. Divisions changed over time as leaders changed, casualties left and replacements arrived, combat taught new lessons, and units trained to new standards. The experience of the 9th Infantry Division illustrates this point. The division arrived in North Africa as an untested organization and showed its weaknesses in its first battles. Under Major General Manton Eddy's leadership, the division learned from its mistakes and became a veteran outfit. The division reached a peak of effectiveness during the campaign in the Cotentin Peninsula, before the huge losses of the hedgerow fighting and the Huertgen Forest depleted its ranks. After integrating replacements in November 1944, the division spent three months on relatively quiet sector of the front, which kept losses low. By the time it underwent its next crises at the Remagen bridge, the division was once again at a peak of effectiveness.*

The cyclical nature of combat effectiveness in the 9th Infantry Division was common to most of the divisions that fought in Europe. Without a system of unit rotation, divisions spent too much time in combat. The primary problem was the lack of divisions, which forced commanders to keep units in the line long after they should have been withdrawn and reconstituted. Instead, theater commanders funneled hundreds of thousands of individual replacements to divisions in contact with the enemy to keep them operating. Commanders labored mightily to integrate these soldiers into their units before they became casualties, with mixed results. The dips in combat effectiveness were unavoidable, and the cost of the system of individual replacements was high. Between June 1944 and May 1945, the 9th Infantry Division sustained over thirty-three thousand battle and nonbattle casualties, nearly two and one-half times the division's authorized strength. Many of these casualties returned to the division after a stay in the hospital; many did not. The soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division earned their place in the Great Crusade through a great deal of effort and an enormous expenditure of blood.

Not all branches suffered equally on the battlefield. One of the reasons American artillery units were so effective was that they took very few casualties (except for their forward observers). By the end of the war, therefore, artillery battalions that had been together for several months or years were extremely proficient. The same holds true for most combat support and combat service support units. Staff work also improved as officers learned the business of coordinating operations. No matter how good planning was, however, the plans had to be executed by the combat soldiers at the front.

**"Lest We Forget"
Worcester Memorial Service**



On Sunday, October 24, 2010 the 65th annual Memorial Mass and wreath laying ceremony was held at the Immaculate Conception parish in Worcester, Massachusetts. This year's service marks another milestone in a long line of continuous Mass celebrations started by Father Edward T. Connors in Germany at war's end. Father Walter J. Riley, Pastor, concelebrated Mass with Father Marc Solomon and Deacon John Franchi. Scout Master Stephen Sycks,



L to r: Henry Shimkowski, Fr. Marc Solomon, Deacon John Franchi, and Fr. Walter Riley

Troop 54, along with several scouts welcomed The Ninth Infantry Division Association representatives, they provided color guard and escort services before



and after Mass. Ms. Gail Eisenhauer made arrangements for the association logo wreath from a local florist.

Mr. Henry Shimkowski, 26th Field Artillery Battalion, and his lovely wife Theresa represented the association veterans. After Mass and the Memorial Service the group met for refreshments in the Father Edward T. Connors Parish Center. The parish provided the refreshments continuing the tradition of "Connors Coffee Shop" for the division attendees.



Henry and Theresa Shimkowski

Father Connors was pastor at Immaculate Conception from April 30, 1952 through June 21, 1980.



Widows, Sons and Daughters Auxiliary Representatives

L to r: Chuck Dswon, Sandra Bosko, Phil Bosko, Rick Merrill, William Sauers, Gail Eisenhauer, Mary Cooper, Lavonne Blann, Rosemary Cosgrove (partially hidden), Phyllis Vivolo, Clare Irwin, Paul Blann (not pictured)

Photos by Gail Eisenhauer and Clare Irwin

Octofoil Library Project

The library project continues to be of interest and has received several monetary donations during the year. As reported in the last newsletter a DVD was made available to all association members. This was an important first step in our efforts to digitize all available text documents (books, magazines, newsletters, maps, combat records, photos, etc.) that record the history of the 9th Infantry Division and the subsequent evolution of The Ninth Infantry Division Association. This is a major undertaking and will require several years to complete. We were fortunate to have a firm in Denver, Colorado step up to help us electronically scan some of the documents and produce the noted DVD at a very reasonable cost. They worked very hard to digitize all the material that was donated and sent to them at the time. As one can imagine trying to integrate our low budget project with their "higher paying" clients ultimately proved to be too much for them to handle. We must find a new digitizing partner that will work with our meager budget to complete the historical preservation of the text records.

In the interim we would like to acknowledge the following donors for their continuing financial support:

Claude E. Berghorn
Henry and Jean Geary
William J. Rybka
Sandra Ann Bosko
Robert J. Haroutunian
Gail Eisenhauer in memory of **John Bosko**
Mary Ann Melgey in memory of **John Bosko**
Nancy A. Oat in memory of **John Bosko**
Mary Ann Arico in memory of **John Bosko**
Adrienne Mansfield in memory of **John Bosko**
Victoria M. Arico in memory of **John Bosko**
John and Mary Ann Arico in memory of **John Bosko**

If you have any documents (such as those listed above) that you think should be digitized for future generations, please send them to: William Sauers, 2960 W. 234th St., Torrance, CA 90505-4104. Please earmark any documents that you wish returned and they will be copied for later scanning and returned as requested. Any financial donations can be made by making a check payable to William Sauers and sending it to him at the noted address. All contributions will be recognized.

(The Literary Ninth...continued from page 2)

More often than not, these soldiers were far less experienced than the soldiers who supported them.

A closer look at some statistics on combat usage and casualties shows why replacements were so crucial to the success of American infantry division in World War II. Between 8 November 1942 and 8 May 1945, the 1st Infantry Division spent 442 days in combat. During the campaigns in North Africa and Sicily, this combat was punctuated by periods of rest and training. Additionally, the division received a long period of rest and training in Great Britain prior to the Normandy invasion. Between D-Day and V-E Day, the division spent 317 days in combat with almost no rest. Nearly every month the Big Red One sustained 2,000 to 3,000 battle and nonbattle casualties; in November 1944 the casualty totals exceeded 5,500 men. During the campaign for France and Germany, the 1st Infantry Division sustained 29,630 battle and nonbattle casualties, yet it ended the war at nearly full strength. Other divisions endured similar fates; Table 11.1 details the losses sustained by American infantry divisions in France and Germany in 1944-1945. Clearly, once an infantry division of the Army of the United States entered combat in Europe and sustained losses, it could never maintain a high level of combat effectiveness unless it integrated its replacements in a suitable manner.

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

Neil W. Aberegg Hq Co., 60th F.A. Bn.	Alice K. Doty	Charles A. Mazzella B Co., 9th Med. Bn.
John Bosko M Co., 60th Inf. Regt.	Ruth Gray Wife of Ed Gray	Wallace G. Richardson A Co., 47th Inf. Regt.
Warren Boulden	Richard Irwin H Co., 60th Inf. Regt.	Edward Rigsby E Co., 39th Inf. Regt.
Paul L. Dillon Hq Co., 39th Inf. Regt.	Allen H. Luce M Co., 60th Inf. Regt.	Florence M. Tokarz

TAPS LETTERS

Warren W. Boulden, Jr.

My name is Kevin Boulden. My father was Warren W. Boulden, Jr. He passed away on July 11, 2008. He was 85 years old. Today 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 & Sincerely,
Kevin A. Boulden

Allen H. Luce M Co., 60th Infantry Regiment

I regret to inform you of the death of my beloved husband of 65+ years. Allen H. Luce, 91 years. He so enjoyed the reunions of M Co., 60th Inf., 9th Division and all of its men and families. Of course the Octofoil as well.

I would appreciate still receiving it.
Sincerely, Mary Luce

Alice K. Doty

Thank you for taking the time to send the quarterly Octofoil newsletter to us. Unfortunately, my mom, Alice Doty, who was married to Bill Doty (K Co., 39 Inf. Regt.) passed away on July 20, 2010. She attended your reunions on a yearly basis and always enjoyed being with their friends and reminiscing times gone by.

My husband and I were honored to attend your yearly reunion in Washington, D.C. in 2005, with mom and Bill. We will fondly remember that weekend and felt honored to be a part of the reunion. During the reunion, we traveled to the WWII Memorial and were in awe of the beautiful monument that was constructed in honor of our veterans.

As we wanted to sight-see, we walked to the Washington Monument. There was a large group protesting our war in Iraq and it touched us that these young people did not realize the sacrifice that our troops make every day to sustain our freedom. It actually upset us so much, that my husband asked one of the protesters, "how do you combat evil?" Her response was, "I never really thought about it." I think that response states so much about the lackadaisical society that we are living in. The number of casualties during WW II invasion in Normandy tell the story of how the

(continued next column)

US fought evil against the Nazi's. My Dad was in the Battle of the Bulge, and Bill, my step dad fought with your division. I feel so proud of their sacrifice. My uncle fought in Korea and he never speaks of the sights he witnessed.

Let us pray that our country will awaken to the evil that is seeping in and become aware of what we must do to combat it before it is too late.

I sincerely appreciate all that your infantry group has done to remain intact during the past 50+ years. May God continue to bless you and God Bless America.

Sincerely, Barb and Bernie Fink

Ruth Gray

Dear Emil and Audrey,

Just a short note with this sad news, Ruth suffered a slight stroke the middle of March. She had a second stroke in September and died quietly on September 23, 2010.

I'm living here at the shore, when the house in Florida is sold I'll move into Erickson Retirement Community. Every week-end my kids who live in West Orange, New York and Boston come visit and bring too much food. That's all for now.

Signed, Eddie

Richard M. Irwin H Co., 60th Infantry Regiment

On November 28, 2010, my father, Richard M. Irwin passed away in Novi, Michigan. He was 85. His service in the 9th Infantry Division during WWII was one of his greatest memories. He served bravely and was awarded with 3 Bronze Battle Stars (Rhineland, Ardennes, Central Germany) a Purple Heart Medal and Sharpshooter Medal. My dad was very proud of the 9th Infantry and truly enjoyed the friendships and camaraderie at the annual reunions.

Signed, Clare Irwin

TAPS LETTERS

Charles A. Mazzella
B Co., 9th Medical Battalion

Dear Mr. DeDonato:

I just received your letter to my dad about the reunion you just had. My dad passed away on Mother's Day, May 9, 2010. We moved my parents back to Stamford, Connecticut last July 2009. My parents were both ill. My dad had Alzheimer and developed an infection which took his life. My dad would have been there if he was well. My dad was a POW in World War II and was so patriotic and loved his country.

Regard, Cynthia DeAngelis

Edward Rigsby
E Company, 39th Infantry Regiment

On June 9, 2010, Edward Rigsby passed away after a brief illness. Born April 26, 1923, Ed was 87 years of age at the time of his passing.

The Army called upon Ed to serve in January 1943 and he was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division. He traveled throughout North Africa, Sicily, and the European theater with Company E of the 39th Infantry Regiment as an Automatic Rifleman and later served as Squadron Leader. Ed was wounded in Germany on March 17, 1945, for which he received the Purple Heart.

Ed was discharged from the Army at the rank of Sergeant from Camp Atterbury in Indiana on September 23, 1945.

For 36 and a half years, Ed worked as an Electrician for the Essroc Cement Plant before retiring in 1984.

Over the years, Ed and his wife, Zelma, attended several Ninth Infantry Division reunions and renewed many friendships he had first established on the battlefields. He was proud of his years of service in the Army. He looked forward to reading his copy of *The Octofoil* and exchanging letters with his former comrades in arms. Ed was a member of the Lawrence Capehart VFW Post #35 in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Ed will be remembered by his son and two daughters as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Thank you.

Joy Rigsby Zurek

TAPS OBITUARIES



Neil W. Aberegg
1921-2010

Headquarters Co., 60th Field Artillery Battalion

Neil W. Aberegg, 89, of Hundred, West Virginia was called to the Lord after a brave fight with cancer on September 29, 2010.

Mr. Aberegg was born June 18, 1921 at Endicott, West Virginia a son the late David Aberegg and Ida Kuhens Aberegg Wise. Neil was a member of the Hundred Church of Christ

Mr. Aberegg was a World War II veteran who was a member of the 9th Infantry Division Association. He was on the honor roll of charter members of the National World War II Museum.

Neil was an active member of the Wetzel County Farm Bureau. He had been enshrined in the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame at Jackson Mills in 2006. He also received the West Virginia Tree Farmer of the year award at Canaan Valley; and received the Million Mile Award from the Wetzel County Board of Education for his 28 years of school bus driving service. He was a farmer who raised dairy cattle, sheep, and Hereford beef cattle.

In March of 2010 he traveled to Remagen, Germany for the plaque dedication of the Ludendorff Bridge. Neil's unit was one of the many units that crossed the bridge. This allowed allied troops to drive into the heart of Germany, thus aiding the end of the war.

Surviving are his wife Hazel, who is a resident of the Cameron Nursing and Rehab Center; several children and their spouses, grandchildren and their spouses, and great grandchildren.



John Bosko
1921-2010

M Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

John Bosko, 89, of Preston, passed away on Saturday, December 4, 2010, at Fairview following an extended illness

He was born in Fitchville, on April 29, 1921, the son of the late Sergey and Anisa (Laputz) Bosko.

John graduated from the Norwich Free Academy in 1939. In June 1942 joined the U.S. Army as a member of the Ninth Infantry Division attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant.

On September 24, 1949, he and Alexandria were married in St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Norwich.

He worked in the plumbing trades for over 40 years, retiring in 1985.

In addition to his wife, John is survived by his daughter, Sandra, and his son, Philip. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.



Paul L. Dillon
1921-2010

Headquarters Co., 39th Infantry Regiment

Paul L. Dillon, 89, of Hardy, Virginia passed away peacefully on November 18, 2010. He is survived by his former wife, Virginia, several children and their spouses, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Paul served with U.S. Army during WWII with the 9th Infantry Division. He fought in the D-Day Invasion, Rhineland, Ardennes and the Battle of the Bulge. For his service, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and other medals. Paul was a life member of the DAV, VFW, MOPH and the American Legion. Paul retired from the Fred Whitaker Company with 15 years of service.

CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS



Emil De Donato

FLORIDA CHAPTER

2011 Florida Chapter Reunion: Mark your calendar for May 2,3,4 to attend the chapter reunion at the Plaza Ocean Club Hotel located at 640 North Atlantic Ave. in Daytona Beach. The Plaza Ocean Club Hotel is a medium size, 12 stories tall and 640 guest rooms. It is near the Daytona Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, a short distance to the Ocean Walk Shoppes, with many fine restaurants close by.

It has a restaurant that serves only breakfast and lunch. Each guest room has a small refrigerator, 27 inch TV, coffee maker, hair drier and a private balcony. Approximately five weeks before opening day, all paid up dues members will receive an information sheet and an order form spelling out the costs and the agenda. Be prepared to enjoy another enjoyable reunion especially since the chapter will subsidize a good part of the costs.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Marty and Rosalyn Gross: The couple enjoyed a weeks vacation with one of their children on the west coast in September. Upon return they discovered a water pipe had broken flooding their first floor apartment. It took over two weeks to clean up the mess before they were able to move back into their apartment. Fortunately they had insurance to cover the cost of the damages. We hope to see them at the May reunion when they can tell us the full story.

Norma Ruschell: In an email, Norma stated that her husband Marv is having speech problems. They went to see a Neurologist who diagnosed the problem as "Primary Progressive Aphasia," a rare disease that medical science has yet to figure out the cause. Their doctor and speech therapist recommended a speech board which will help Marv communicate. Norma will fill us in during the May reunion. We look forward to seeing Norma and her sister, Dora Coen, in May.

Pauline Gowen: We were delighted to learn that Pauline is planning to attend our reunion. Pauline and her late husband Edward attended National and chapter reunions. Ed passed away on June 12, 2007. Ed served with Co. A, 15th Engineers.

TAPS SOUNDED

Wallace G. Richardson: A note from his grand daughter, Gloria, stated that Wally passed away on Monday, November 1, 2010. Wally served with Co. A, 47th Inf. Regt. Condolences may be sent to his grand daughter, Gloria Schaub, 795 Kensington Park Rd., Greenwood, IN 46142.

Ruth Gray: We learned through emails and phone calls from husband Ed that his wife Ruth passed away on Thursday, September 23, 2010 at the Van Dyke Hospice and Palliative Care Center in Toms River, N.J. Ed is now living in his New Jersey home. He is in the process of selling his Florida home and winding up on other personal business. Ed Gray's present address is 217 Hayes St. (Box 1275), Normandy Beach, NJ 08739

Charles A. Mazzella: His daughter, Cynthia DeAngelis sent a letter stating that her father passed away on May 9, 2010. He served with Co. B, 9th Medical Battalion until taken prisoner (POW). Charles was a long dues paying member of the chapter but was unable to attend reunions for health reasons. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Cynthia DeAngelis, [REDACTED]

We have a number of members who are sick and cannot travel. Will you kindly include them in your prayers. Thank you.

Emil DeDonto, [REDACTED]

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER



L to r: Sadie & Joe Maiale, Joe Killen, Ruth & Arno Heller, Viola & Tony Varone, Anton & Charlotte Dietrich, Barbara & Marv Levy

The New York Chapter met at 12 o'clock on Friday, December 17, 2010 at the Lantern Restaurant in West Hempstead, LI, N.Y. for our annual holiday party. The Ninth men and ladies who attended are shown in the photo. We were pleased by the pleasant, sunny day which had turned around from the freezing days before.

We all enjoyed chatting with ladies and

buddies, catching up on personal news while savoring the delicious repast served by the restaurant. We said goodbye around 3 o'clock wishing each other Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year. Some of our regulars who could not attend were ailing Prez Ed Harris, and Al Zenka, who just had stones removed from his bladder. Al Lipton could not attend because, normally he would have been picked up by Zenka.

There are no chapter meetings in January and February. We meet again at our regular command post in the Franklin Square Public Library, Franklin Square, N.Y. on March 25, 2011.

Marv Levy, Recoding Secretary



LADIES CORNER



Rosalyn Gross
President

We had a great convention in Indianapolis last summer, enjoyed by all. The Ladies Auxiliary had a lovely luncheon where we exchanged gifts and had lively conversations. Through sales of hats, shirts, and more as well as our auction items and dues, we made \$1,249. At the luncheon we voted to donate \$500 to the Octofoil and \$300 to each of the following: the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care Center SEP BLDG39, the Indianapolis, Indiana VA Medical Center, and the Broward County VA Outpatient Clinic in Florida. Martin and Roz Gross personally delivered the check to the Florida VA organization and it will be earmarked for Christmas baskets for needy veterans.

Elections were held and here are our officers:

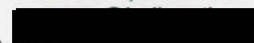
Roz Gross, President
Jackie Armstrong, Vice President
Jean Geary, Treasurer
Helen Mizell, Chaplain

We thank Judy Goldsmith for her years of serving as the Ladies Auxiliary President and her leadership will be missed.

Sorry to say the Ladies Auxiliary lost a longtime member and past officer, Mary McLaughlin. We are also seeking information on Mildred Billington-how she is and where she is?

We look forward to next year's convention in New Orleans. Unfortunately we are losing members since many are in their 80's or 90's. Remember that all are welcome to the annual Ladies Auxiliary luncheon. Further information will be forthcoming in the next Octofoil. The membership form for payment of dues is on page 14. We are happy to say the Sons and Daughters are taking over many of the chores of this great 9th Division organization, so it will in no way disappear.

Roz Gross, President



Légion d' Honneur
Legion of Honor
Consulate General of France

Thomas W. Hatton
4th Platoon, C Company, 60th Infantry Regiment
Saginaw, Michigan
November 8, 2010

There were nights after the war when Thomas W. Hatton questioned his place on this Earth.

The World War II veteran - now 86 and widowed - had ventured into the darkest depths of combat all those decades ago and, somehow, somehow, stayed alive...even if so many of the men he once stood beside remain buried beneath foreign soil today. "At the end of the war, I wondered why I was spared," Hatton said. "You ask, 'What am I supposed to do with my life now?' No one who goes into war comes out the same person."

Many may say Hatton shouldn't have come out of his war at all.

He spent five weeks battling Nazis in a German forest where life expectancy for an American officer was seven days. In one month-long span, he rose in rank from private first class to gun sergeant to staff sergeant to platoon sergeant as he replaced injured or dead superiors. He was shot or wounded four times and dodged death a time or two more. But he survived all that, and today, Hatton belongs to a dwindling demographic: The World War II veteran.

The fight nearly three-quarters of a century ago is not forgotten. Not by Hatton; not by those freed because of his bravery; and certainly not on a day like today, Veterans Day.

Hatton later this month will be honored as a **Knight of the Legion of Honor** - considered since the 19th century as one of France's highest military honors - for his role in liberating French citizens from Nazi rule at Normandy's Cherbourg Peninsula in June 1944.

"I'm grateful for it," the retired 30-year Saginaw fire-fighter says of the French medallion he received in the mail Monday. "It's a real honor, but you know, I've never really pushed what happened to me in the war. I didn't do anything that another 100,000 soldiers didn't do."

Sicilian buzz Hatton, a 1942 Arthur Hill Trade School graduate, admits that outside of the war years, he rarely ventured much further north than Court Street.

In his 20s, he married a woman who, as a girl, walked with him to South Intermediate School. They were married for nearly 52 years, raised three children and lived in the same home Hatton built with his hands in 1950. Yet, between the time the Army drafted Hatton on February 10, 1943, and the war's end 30 months later, this homegrown soul became something larger than his picket-fenced roots might suggest. He became a soldier, and somewhere along the way, a hero. But, first, he was a friend.

Hatton still waxes nostalgic about those first few weeks with his 9th Infantry Division mates in Sicily, where blood had yet to spill and service resembled something closer to a vacation that all "the hell" that followed. "That was great," he says of awaiting orders on the Italian island. "That was really a neat break. Someone brought us swimsuits with our division patch on them, and we would go swimming in the Mediterranean Sea." There was laughter and fun. Hatton says the first time he ever got drunk was thanks to Sicilian liquor. "I got quite a buzz," he says. "I'll never forget that."

(continued on page 10)



Photo: Jeff Schrier-The Saginaw News

George L. Harris
1st Platoon, H Company, 39th Infantry Regiment
Hartly, Delaware
June 23, 2010

Eighteen days after Allied troops stormed the beaches at Normandy on June 6, 1944, then Sergeant George L. Harris was part of a company of American soldiers taking part in an assault on German fortifications near the French town of Octeville. Although Harris and his machine gun squad eventually were forced to withdraw from the fight, he earned the Silver Star for his leadership and valor. In his almost five-year military career, which ended in September 1945, just after the Japanese surrender, Harris, now 88, served in North Africa and Sicily and earned numerous additional decorations, including the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Purple Heart.

The latest honor for the Delaware resident came 65 years after war's end when France awarded him the republic's highest award, the Knight's Order of the Legion of Honor, for his part in the liberation of that nation from Nazi control. The award was made June 23 at the French consulate in Washington, D.C. by Mr. Michel Schaffhauser, Consul General of France.



Mr. Michel Schaffhauser, Consul General of France presents the Legion of Honor to George Harris in Washington, D.C.

In awarding the Legion of Honor, Consul General Michel Schaffhauser said the French people always would remember the sacrifices of the more than 60,000 Americans who died on their soil. "All of you were there with gallantry and determination to help free us from the tyranny of foreign occupation," he said. "For your actions on duty, your government conferred upon you the most prestigious decorations. Today it is the turn of my country, France, to officially recognize you for your distinguished military service, which lead to the liberation of France and Europe."

At first, Harris didn't feel he deserved the honor, saying he had just done his duty, like so many other soldiers. "I feel a little different now," he said. "We freed them, and that's what the war was all about, I just hope I don't ever have to do it again," he said with a smile.



Honored recipient George L. Harris with family
 Standing l to r: Larry Harris, Ray Harris, wife Jean, Rich Harris



Légion d' Honneur
 Legion of Honor
 Consulate General of France



Joseph W. Bergin
 3rd Platoon, F Company, 47th Infantry Regiment
 New London, New Hampshire
 November 17, 2010

On November 17, 2010, 47th Infantry Regiment veteran Joseph W. Bergin, received the French Legion of Honor Medal from Mr. Christophe Guilhou, Consul General of France at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The origin and name of this medal, "The National Order of the Legion of Honor," was founded by Napoleon Bonaparte on May 19, 1802, and it recognizes outstanding service to the Republic of France. Every year, U.S. veterans who helped in the liberation of France during World War II can receive the medal, which is the highest decoration of France.



Joseph Bergin was an Infantry Sergeant in Company F, 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment. He was in six of the eight battle campaigns.

Bergin feels that it's not just his medal, "I certainly don't think that I am deserving of this medal, but I will accept it on behalf of my Ninth Division friends who were lost during the time in France."

Ed Note: Photos and text provided by Yuri Beckers

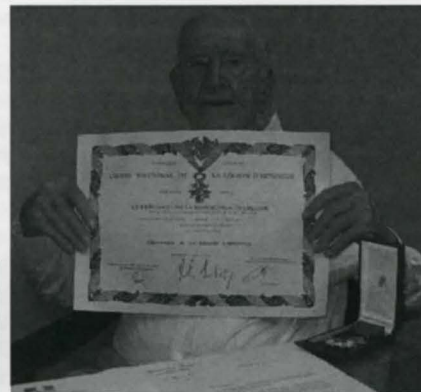


Ronald E. Frank
 D Company, 47th Infantry Regiment
 Leechburg, Pennsylvania
 November 20, 2010

Ronald E. Frank recently received the French Legion of Honor Medal for his participation in the liberation of France during WWII. The medal was presented by Jean-Dominique Le Garrec, Honorary Consul General of France, during a ceremony at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A member of Company D, 47th Infantry Regiment, Mr. Frank dedicated his French award to his fellow soldiers, "I took it for all my buddies," he said. Mr. Frank resides in Armstrong County, Leechburg, Pennsylvania with his wife Mary.

County, Leechburg, Pennsylvania with his wife Mary.

William W. Tanner
 3rd Battalion Commander, 47th Infantry Regiment
 Union City, Tennessee
 October 15, 2010



"Ordre National de la Légion D'Honneur"
 If English is not simply your "first" language, but, indeed, your "only" language, you can probably still figure out the gist of the wording above. It has something to do with a country—that much is evident from the "National."

It refers, apparently, to the military—you can tell that from the give-

away word "Légion," even with the fancy accent mark.

And it must be related to an "honor" of some kind—after all, there are only a few letters' difference between the familiar Anglicized version and the fancier-looking and slightly longer noun in some other language.

Still, a truly precise and pristine translation could prove a minor challenge for most northwest Tennesseans; but Bill Tanner of Union City had no trouble at all when he read the phrase in a letter he received last spring.

The words were French in origin—a language he had heard spoken by those for whom it was a native tongue during the summer of 1944. At the time, he was executive officer of the 3rd Battalion of the 47th Infantry, a battle-tested force of 1,000 men who had already seen service in North Africa and Sicily as the war dragged on.

Sixty-six years later, the president of the French Republic signed a decree naming Tanner a "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor.

He first received notice through a letter dated March 24, 2010.

"This award testifies to the President of the French Republic's high esteem for your merits and accomplishments. In particular, it is a sign of France's true and unforgettable gratitude and appreciation for your personal, precious contribution to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II.

"The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of great merit. The French people will never forget your courage and your devotion to the great cause of freedom.

"It is a personal pleasure for me to convey to you my sincere and warm congratulation."

The letter was signed by Pierre Vimont, Ambassador to the United States from France.

In September, a ceremony was conducted in Nashville, to which Tanner was invited. He was, unfortunately, unable to make the trip; but this week, he finally received the gleaming French Legion of Honor Medal and the certificate that "attests that you are a 'chevalier' of the Legion of Honor."

"Chevalier" is literally translated "horseman" in French, but when it is used as a title, its English equivalent is "knight."

A second letter, this one from Consul General Pascal Le Deunff of the Consul General's office in Atlanta, accompanied the package.

"Dear Mr. Tanner, This is with endless respect and
 (continued on page 10)

(Thomas W. Hatton...continued from page 8)

The infantry unit then joined with the 60th Regiment and traveled to England, where they played the role of "the bad guys" in mock war games used to prepare the Allied Forces that later stormed Normandy on D-Day. The experience cemented the camaraderie Hatton shares with his outfit's survivors today.

But, on June 10, 1944, everything changed for Hatton and the men who swam the Mediterranean with him. Four days after Americans invaded Germans on Normandy's shores, the 9th Infantry landed on Utah Beach to begin its campaign splitting German forces along the Cherbourg Peninsula.

There, they came face-to-face with the realities of World War II. "It wasn't until the first day that I got into France when I realized that people are getting killed and that's your job—you've got to kill people," Hatton says. "That's not an easy conversion to make, but when your friends start getting killed, you turn right then, and you know what you've got to do."

Bunnies to the slaughter

During the group's march West, they faced heavy resistance from German forces. "They tried to break out of that peninsula three times," Hatton says. "By the time June 24th came, we lost half our company. It was nothing to lose 35, 40 guys in one push."

The war didn't get easier. The crew lost 3,836 soldiers in the Hürtgen Forest, nestled along the border between Belgium and Germany, in September and October 1944. "That was one of the worst situations I'd ever been in there," Hatton says. "There were a couple of times we had to be pulled off-line because we just didn't have enough people. (The Germans) would get our position, fire their artillery, and it would hit the trees and just rain down on you." Soldiers dug foxholes and built makeshift roofs from shattered tree limbs. "You'd hear the artillery coming, and you'd get to be just like a bunny rabbit and jump right in the hole," he says. "It was like that all the time."

Not one officer escaped injury in that forest, Hatton says. Including him. He remembers going to the bathroom near a tree, and when he straightened out to tuck his shirt in, a bullet struck him between his shoulder blades. "When I stood up, he must have saw me and nailed me good," Hatton says of who he believes was a German sniper. "I had a slug right between the shoulder blades." Hatton says a supply pack slung over his back likely saved his life. A medic removed a bullet sunk part-way into his skin. Then the mission continued. "There were a lot of guys that had similar experiences," he says. "You got shot, and you kept going. That was the closet I came to death, though."

That December in Germany, Hatton had another close call. The then-20-year old felt a load of shrapnel from an artillery shell rip into his right leg. Hatton spent the next four months recovering from the injury in Bath, England, before returning to the fray in April 1945. "That probably saved my life," he says of the injury. During his absence, Hatton's unit endured a particularly bloody 10-day stretch of combat that he doubts he would have survived. "There were a couple of times where I wondered if I had a guardian angel looking over me," he says.

Demons and the damage done

Hatton has a hard time counting the number of friends he lost on those European battlefields. One in particular stands out, though. Andy Harmon was a Saginaw native drafted along with Hatton. The two were assigned an eight-digit Army serial number with a one-number difference. Both served in the 60th Regiment and were shipped overseas together. Only Hatton returned.

"Our unit went back (to Normandy) for the 25th anniversary in 1970," he says. "I went out to Andy's gravesite, and the guy who was in the cemetery office gave me flowers so I could put them on his grave." Hatton has a hard time finishing the thought. "That was tough," he says. "That was tough."

Hatton's visit with his long-lost friend got him contemplating life and why he was spared while other young men perished.

(continued next column)

His wife, Geraldine, had traveled with him during the reunion and provided perspective. "When we were on the buses and these guys were talking with me, my wife said, 'Honey, that's the first time I've heard you talk about the war,'" says Hatton, who still wears a Bolo tie adorned with his infantry's insignia, an eight-petal flower called an Octofoil. "I said, 'That's the first time anyone could understand.' 'That's the reason most veterans never talk about the war,'" Hatton says now. "Even if we told people, they wouldn't understand what it's all about."

Geraldine died 11 years ago. Hatton still lives in the West Side house a few blocks from where the couple first trekked to school together. The home is a shrine both to his family and military service. Walls and cupboards are lined with portraits, while the den features military certificates and photos of old war buddies. There's a spot in the room set aside for Hatton's Legion of Honor medallion.

It's in that room that Hatton offers a touching reflection that suggests he eventually won the war against the demons that followed him home from the war. "For a long time, I wondered, 'Why am I here?'" he says, "but now I'm satisfied with the way my life has worked out. I've had a good life, and I'm grateful for what I have."

A lot of Americans—and French, for that matter—are grateful for what he gave.

The Saginaw News, published November 11, 2010, did not respond to several attempts for reprint permission.

(William W. Tanner...continued from page 9)

and affection, in recognition of your noble contribution during World War II and in remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives for the cause that you will find enclosed the French Legion of Honour Medal....Please accept my sincere thanks for all you have done to help my country in those times."

The accompanying decree is, of course, entirely in French, but loosely translated, it states that the president of the French Republic, grand master of the Order of the National Legion of Honor, names, by decree this day, Mr. William W. Tanner, a veteran of the second World War, of American nationality, a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

It is signed appropriately and with a great flourish.

The medal is not the first Tanner has received. For service during eight World War II campaigns, he had already been awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Presidential Unit Citation. He earned them all.

WWII recall

On April 21, 1945, 25-year old Battalion Cmdr. William "Bill" Tanner had fought his way to within 45 miles of Berlin—where Americans were to meet the Russian Army. The Union Citation was hit by German fire.

It was a Saturday.

It was the day before Adolf Hitler admitted defeat and determined that suicide was his only recourse.

It was the last official day of battle.

Tanner was evacuated to a hospital in England, where he spent the next 3½ months. Many of his fellow soldiers remained behind. Their service is marked by white crosses on rolling green fields across multiple continents.

Asked to provide military background for the Nashville ceremony, Tanner sent the following historical perspective on his military service.

"I graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1941, with an ROTC commission as 2nd Lt. Infantry and was assigned to Co. 'I,' 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. I served with the 3rd Battalion for the next 4½ years.

"I was a rifle platoon leader when we landed at Safi, French Morocco, Nov. 8, 1942. After crossing Algeria, my company commander was killed at El Guettar in Southern Tunisia, and

(continued on page 11)

(William W. Tanner...continued from page 10)

I took command of I Co., which I led through the remainder of the Tunisian Campaign. (In Tunisia, Tanner's unit fought against German Field Marshal Rommel, the "Desert Fox," in the sand.) We invaded Sicily in August 1943 and then moved to England to prepare for the Normandy invasion.

"June 1944 we landed on Utah Beach and June 18 emerged at Barneville, having completely cut the Cherbourg Peninsula. We then turned north and by June 27 had captured Cherbourg, for which the division was awarded the Croix de Guerre.

"Following the capture of Cherbourg, we attacked northwest to clear the heavily fortified Cap de la Hague peninsula. By July 1, the entire Cotentin Peninsula was in Allied hands. For its part in the operation the 3rd Battalion received the U.S. Distinguished Unit Citation.

"There followed almost a month of difficult and bloody fighting through the hedgerows of Normandy. Near the end of July we broke through the German defenses on the St. Lo-Perriers road, and a month later the Germans were in a general and somewhat disorganized retreat.

"It was decided to form a few small tank-infantry teams to operate well in advance of the main body to facilitate the speed of the pursuit, and to keep pressure on the retreating Germans. On Aug. 26, the 3rd Battalion was attached to the 3rd Armored Division to form one of these small teams. The infantrymen rode on the tanks until they hit a German delaying position. They would then dismount, clear the resistance, remount and resume the advance. We moved from Arpajon, just south of Paris, to the Belgian border in just a little over a week. The help of the French resistance fighters was invaluable.

"They guided us around blown bridges, pointed out where the road was mined, and indicated where we could expect the next delaying position. We liberated town after town every day. What an experience!

We crossed Belgium, and shortly after entering Germany, at the age of 25, I became the battalion commander and led the battalion throughout the remainder of the war. At Dessau on the Elbe River, just 45 miles from Berlin and our furthest point of advance, on April 21st, I was wounded for the second time and was evacuated."

Tanner's account does not mention that he and his battalion, at one point, were bombed by their own planes.

It happened on the St. Lo-Perriers Road. As he recalls it, the Germans had a strong defensive line on the far side of the road. The Allies focused all their air power—both light and heavy bombers—on the area and Tanner and his battalion were ordered to pull back about 1,200 yards to clear the way for saturated bombing of the German line to prepare the way for the infantry to go through and shatter the German line. There were, Tanner says, hundreds of bombers in the skies over France and they kicked up a huge cloud of dust and smoke. Then, suddenly, the wind shifted and that veil of obscuring debris drifted over the American troops. Bombers, unaware of the wind's shifty nature, thought the clouds marked the spot where the Germans were dug in and began dropping their deadly packages.

By the time the devastating bombardment ended, Tanner and one other officer were still standing from the command group. Hundreds of others had also died around them, with one of those a young lieutenant named Bill Evans from Jackson.

The casualty numbers were so high there was no way the survivors had the manpower to carry out the original mission. Another battalion was called on to complete the effort.

Tanner and his battalion, recovering quickly from the battlefield mistake, then barreled across France in 11 days' time and reached Belgium, advancing from there to Germany, where they continued to move so swiftly that they beat many of the Germans back to the Siegfried Line, the German defensive system. Tanner and his battalion moved through it relatively unopposed

(continued next column)

and spread out into German forests, where they were, for all practical purposes, lost to their enemies and from which they emerged victorious.

France has much for which to thank Bill Tanner and those who fought with him.

The medal is a fitting reminder of their gratitude.

We celebrate not only with Bill Tanner and his wife, Doris, who also served her country as a WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots), but with all our veterans.

In simple English, "We honor your service."

Reprinted by permission from Glenda Caudle, Special Features Editor, *The Messenger*, Union City, Tennessee, Friday, October 15, 2010.



Domenick A. Fiore Jr.
B Battery, 376th Antiaircraft Artillery -
Automatic Weapons Battalion
Reading, Pennsylvania
March 10, 2010

Clint Eastwood, Hollywood actor and filmmaker.

Julia Child, well-known chef.
Celine Dion, Canadian singer.

J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series.

Domenick A. Fiore Jr., retired military mechanic.

Huh?

How did that guy from Reading get in with that elite group?

He has joined the Legion d'honneur as a chevalier, which is sort of the French equivalent of a knight.

Napoleon Bonaparte established the Legion of Honor in 1802 to recognize outstanding military service.

Since then, the legion has grown to include people who are outstanding in their fields.

In a recent trip to Washington, D.C., the French Embassy gave Fiore the Star Medal on a scarlet ribbon that goes to all legion members.

He was one of 20 former soldiers inducted that day for helping to liberate France during World War II.

Fiore was allowed to take five guests to the ceremony.

He chose his son, Domenick J. Fiore, Allentown; niece Bura Rogers, Reston, Va.; hunting buddy Snato Napoli, Reading; and Masonic Lodge buddies Uwe Peterson, Wyomissing, and Heinrich Schlarb, Sinking Spring.

That would be the Teutonic Lodge, where members speak German—the language of the people Fiore is credited with helping to drive out of France.

Fiore was just 19 years old when he arrived in Normandy on D-Day plus three, as he calls that day in June 1944.

The award dredged up a lot of memories, most of them involving the horror of war.

But he has a sense of wonderment and humor about the belated thanks from France.

"When the letter first came, I said, 'What? After all these years?'" he recalled. "I can't believe it's taken that long.

"After 65 years, I can't believe it."

It may a cliché, but *mieux vaut tard que jamais*.

Or, as we say here in the United States, better late than never.

Reprinted by permission from Mary E. Young, *Reading Eagle*, Thursday, March 25, 2010.



Some of you may know that I have been a reader of non-fiction books by Andrew Bacevich, PhD.

He served in Vietnam, Germany and the Persian Gulf before retiring from the Army with the rank of colonel. Now he teaches at Boston University.

In the spring of 2007, his son, Lt. Andrew Bacevich, Jr., was killed by an improvised explosive device.

Dr. Bacevich's books include *American Empire* (2002), *The New American Militarism* (2005), *The Limits of Power* (2008), *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War* (2010).

I was particularly impressed with Dr. Bacevich's analysis in *The Limits of Power*. But in his latest book, *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*, he posits two profound questions that each of us should ponder at length: "Who is more deserving of contempt?"

1. The commander-in-chief who sends young Americans to die for a cause, however misguided, in which he sincerely believes?
2. Or the commander-in-chief who sends young Americans to die for a cause in which he manifestly does not believe and yet refuses to forsake?

I am interested in how you resolve and judge this dilemma?

Signed, Paul Schumacher

Don Stibitz

Contacting the Russians

On Apr. 22, the third platoon of I Co., 60th was sent on a patrol to try to contact the Russians. They crossed the Mulde River which was the line we were supposed to stop at, and went about 15 miles. I was held back because I was leaving to go to England and the CO didn't want me taking a chance on being killed or wounded and ruining my trip.

All that day I was going up the Co., CP to find out how the platoon was doing. They were in contact by radio. After 6 or 8 trips the CO said, why don't you stay here on the radio instead of running back and forth. They returned late that afternoon without finding the Russians. They did bring a number of German soldiers back to surrender to the Americans. Many of these asked to be able to join the Americans and fight the Russians. They were certain we would not allow the Russians to take over.

They were also deathly afraid of what would happen to them if the Russians got them. This was typical all across our lines. We got strict orders not to let this occur. We had a 24 hour watch on the bridge to stop anyone from coming across. Early morning of the 24th, another patrol was to be sent out. This time I said I was going with them. I guess the CO was so tired of me bothering him about where and how the platoon was making out the day before, he relented.

This patrol was made up of the third platoon, two tanks and a radio man and a machine gun squad. Our destination was Wittenberg, about 35 miles beyond the line and about the same distance to Berlin. We passed thousands of German soldiers heading toward the American side. We arrived at Wittenberg and looked for a place to set up our CP. I stopped at a large, very good looking home and knocked on the door. A well dressed man came to the door and said he was a doctor. I said I was looking for a place to set up the CP. He gave me directions to a place. When I got there, it was a concentration camp. The whole very large

(continued next column)

first floor was completely filled up with double bunks with hardly a space to go between them. It made me sick to see what was there. There was a body in every bunk. If you could refer to them as bodies. Live human beings with sunken, lifeless eyes and skin stretched over bones.

By then the Lt. had found a good location near the center of town for our CP. He was driving an American Cadillac. He told me to get a car and we would split up the men and place them around the perimeter of the town in twos. I went back to the doctors house and said give me the keys to that Ford. He started to complain, but gave me the keys, after I quietly explained to him, the need I had for his car. I then told him, he was in charge of getting some people together to acquire food and water and deliver it the concentration building and help those people. I would check later and if it wasn't being done I would have him hung. The people were coming in mass, and asking questions, mostly if we were going to occupy the town. That would make them very happy to have us occupy that area rather than the Russians.

The Lt. who was master at speaking "Berlin German," said to come with me, we went up to the city hall and the Lt. went in and said to the Bürgermeister, "I'll give you 20 minutes to get those people off the streets." We left and did some searching. A half hour later we went back to the city hall. The Bürgermeister was sitting in his chair and people were still all over the place. The Lt. grabbed the Bürgermeister by the jacket and hauled him out of the chair. There was what I thought to be a clerk sitting near by. The Lt. told the Bürgermeister he was no longer the Bürgermeister and said to the clerk, "Can you get these people off the street in 20 minutes?" The clerk said, "Yes sir" and saluted him. He then told the clerk, he was the new Bürgermeister and proceeded to kick the ole one out of the office and, "I better not see you anywhere around here again." We went on patrolling and about an hour later we came back to city hall. There was not one person on the street. It was about 6:00 o'clock when I got to our CP. I hadn't seen it before.

The minute I walked in a very grand looking lady came toward me and introduced herself to me. She told me she was a correspondent for the London office of the Chicago Herald Tribune, and got caught up in Wittenberg and couldn't get out. I looked around and everything I saw was money. Expensive furniture, drapes, paintings and on the table there was a setup of unbelievable good food. Sandwiches, cake, fruit, chocolates, scotch and other whiskey's and wine. The Lt. came in and said he just got word the 69th Div. just made contact with the Russians and we had to move back. We had to pick up the guys around the perimeter of the town and prepare to leave. He informed me he was driving the car back. That was good idea, I'll drive mine back also. At first he said "quote" but then relented. Soon as some of the guys heard that they crowded around me and begged me to ride in the car. The first ones I let in were two with a case of beer each.

The Lt. led, followed by one Sherman tank, I was next with the Ford, then the other Sherman. We left and it certainly was much more comfortable than sitting on the tank. However, can you imagine me driving a Ford between two Sherman tanks. This was still war time so no lights. Just the cat eyes on the tank in front of me. I had trouble seeing the tank in front but I wasn't worried about that one, but I sure worried about the rumbling tank behind me. He could have rolled over the top of me before he realized. We made it back okay and I would be off to England in the morning.

If this could be printed in a future Octofoil and anyone would have been on this search, I would sure like to hear from them.

Signed, Don Stibitz

Ralf Klodt

Each year in May here at the Rhine between Bonn and Linz (very roughly the stretch of the Rhine that once was the north to south expansion of the Remagen Bridgehead in March 1945) we have a big festival with lots of fireworks, music etc.

The festival is called "Rhine in flames". A ship convoy with many tourists on board travels up the river starting at Linz, ending at Bonn. During that cruise the cities of Linz, Unkel, Honnef, Königswinter and Bonn have fireworks on the banks of the Rhine. Each year it draws many visitors to the edge of the river. A couple of years ago they started to do something additional at the former bridge at Remagen. They have so-called "space cannons" on each side of the river at the bridge towers at Remagen (west bank) and Erpel (east bank). Those space cannons create a bridge only made of light. A kind of bringing the bridge back to life.

I photographed the scene for the daily newspaper I work for from Bonn and went up to the cliff of the Erpel Ley overlooking the Rhine. I climbed a fence and moved close to the edge of the cliff. At that place I was able to see all four towers of the former bridge and the lights.

If some readers would like to drop me some lines about what they have experienced at the bridge and especially later in the bridgehead (!) - I would love to hear from all of you, no matter how small or unimportant you might think your recollections are!

Signed, Ralf Klodt



Yuri Beckers

SEEKING INFORMATION

I am a 33 year old Dutch man researching and writing a book about the 9th Infantry Division actions that took place in WWII. I am interested in the time period from June 1944 to December 1944 with my main focus on the battles in Germany from September 1944 through November 1944 near the Hürtgen Forest. I am looking for pictures, stories, or any other information that might help in the research and writing. From veterans or family members, it will all be useful. An additional website will be online as well in early 2011. The website will contain a lot of information about the 9th Infantry Division and special personal pages dedicated to 9th Infantry Division men.

Information can be sent to the address shown above. My email is: yuri@9infantrydivision.net

Avis Story

Hi. I know my membership isn't due until June 2011. I feel it cost to publish and get sent, so my small donation I feel will help in some way.

I thoroughly enjoy the Octofoil, all the war stories, some of the names I do recall.

My husband, Robert Story, was in the 9th Division.

Signed, Avis Story

E-Books Available

The electronic version of Henry "Red" Phillips' history of the battle of El Guettar is now available for download on both Kindle and I-Phone for \$4.99. Look for: El Guettar, Crucible of Leadership by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Henry Gerard Phillips. Its companion volume, Sedjenane will be available online early in the new year. Meanwhile the hardback version of Sedjenane is still available from Henry G. Phillips at [redacted] for \$18. (Includes shipping)

El Guettar, Crucible of Leadership describes a battle between the 9th US Infantry Division and Germany's Wehrmacht in North Africa. In this oral history of the 9th Division's "coming of age" battle veterans recall the costly lessons learned in Tunisia in 1943. In Sedjenane he depicts how the division profited from the tactical errors of El Guettar. The 9th's victory at Sedjenane insured Germany's retreat from Africa.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
LADIES AUXILIARY
THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION



Membership Dues: \$5.00 per year (Membership year: July 1 through June 30; All dues payable on or before July 1)

Make checks payable to: Ladies Auxiliary Ninth Infantry Division

Mail to: Jean Geary, Treasurer; [redacted]

Name: _____

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9 Digit Zip Code: _____

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**Summary Table of Newsletter Subscription Fees and Membership Categories
Beginning July 1, 2011**

Category	For The Octofoil	Membership Dues	Total Renewal
1. Life Member	\$20.00	\$0	\$20.00 per year
2. Widow	\$20.00	\$0	\$20.00 per year
3. Regular Annual Member	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$35.00 per year
4. Associate Member	\$20.00	\$0	\$20.00 per year
5. Three Year Member	Being PHASED-OUT when current coverage expires and will be converted to Regular Annual Member.		
6. Life Member	This category will no longer be offered.		



**The Ninth Infantry Division Association
Mugs For Sale**

11 oz. white ceramic mug, logo on both sides. Dishwasher and microwave safe.
Payment by **CHECK** or **MONEY ORDER ONLY**.



<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Price/Mug</u>	<u>Ship/Hndlg</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
1 mug	\$7.00	\$10.25	\$17.25
2 mug set	\$6.50	\$10.25	\$23.25
3 mug set	\$6.25	\$10.25	\$29.00
4 mug set	\$6.00	\$10.25	\$34.25

I wish to purchase _____ mug/mug set at a total purchase price of \$ _____
QTY

NAME: _____

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CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

EMAIL: _____ **PHONE #:** _____

Make payable to: **Mary Cooper** Send order form and payment to: **Mary Cooper**
Please allow 2 weeks for delivery after receipt of order. Shipped by USPS Priority Mail with free delivery confirmation. Larger orders and/or foreign orders require special handling and shipping. Contact Mary Cooper at 281-679-6216 or send email to: ziamkcooper@sbcglobal.net for pricing quote.
Fundraiser conducted by the Sons & Daughters Auxiliary of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

**Officers and Board of Governors
2010-2011**

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Martin Gross, 1st
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William Robey, Secretary
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William Sauers, Octofoil

Henry G. "Red" Phillips, Association Historian

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Octofoil Editor
William Sauers



Association Historian
Henry G. "Red" Phillips

**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name: _____ Address: _____

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

Phone No.: _____ E-mail: _____

I was a member of:

Battery: _____ Company: _____ Regiment: _____ Other 9th Unit: _____

I wish to sign-up for the following: (circle one or more)

Life Membership: a one time fee of \$75.00 Three Year Member: \$35.00 Regular Annual Member per year: \$15.00

Associate Member — Octofoil Subscription Only: 3 years \$25.00

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

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

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

Ninth Infantry Division Association Decals: 2 for \$1.00

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

Chapter to be designated: (circle one)

Greater New York

Michigan

Florida

Texas and the Greater Southwest

NONE



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66th ANNUAL REUNION
Tuesday to Thursday, July 12-14, 2011
SHERATION HOTEL-NEW ORLEANS
500 CANAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130

Make payments by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER payable to: **66th Reunion 2011**. Mail the below completed Room Reservation Form with the payment to: William G. Robey, Reunion Chairman

1005 Elkhart Street, Oxon Hill, MD 20745-2118

Deposits of \$200.00 per person must be made by April 1, 2011. Final payment **MUST BE MADE BY JUNE 1, 2011**. Reservations made after June 1, 2011 will be subject to room availability. If final payment is not made by June 1, 2011, then deposit will be refunded and reservation cancelled. All reservations **MUST BE MADE** with this form. **DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT[LY]**.

For more information, call Bill Robey at 301-567-4290 or 301-221-9969.

ROOM RESERVATION FORM

Arrival Date: _____

Departure Date: _____

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____ 9th Div. Unit: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

SINGLE
640.00

DOUBLE
465.00

TRIPLE
405.00

QUAD
375.00

Hotel will give us the same special room rate (\$117.00) for 3 days before and 3 days after our reunion for those who want to stay longer in New Orleans. Please indicate on the form if you wish extra days. Cost will be added to above. The costs for meals, etc., will be figured separately for those who only want to attend functions and not stay at the hotel. Check with Bill Robey at above phone number for these costs.