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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

1-1-2011

The Octofoil, January/February/March 2011

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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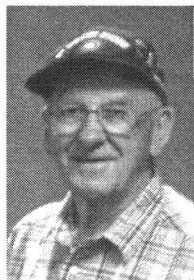
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The Octofoil

Jan.-Feb.-Mar.,
2011

Volume LXVI, No. 1



President
Paul Schumacher

President's Message

Shortly after Christmas each year I think about the most unpleasant winter of my life...the winter of the Battle of the Bulge. In my youthful years I never imagined experiencing a winter like the one in 1944 - 1945. And, we certainly had some harsh, long and nasty winters in Indiana before I encountered that unusual one as a combat infantryman in the Belgium - German countryside.

It took skill and cunning; we had to reach inside ourselves for immeasurable, unthinkable amounts of self-preservation, survival skills, and enormous amounts of energy to get through events each day. Extremely cold weather, constant fatigue, and sorrow from losing buddies often made coping with living unbearably difficult.

Having grown up on a farm, I believe I had a strong and healthy body the day I entered basic training. No doubt about it, each of these attributes gained much each day I was in the Armed Service. I have concluded that none of that perseverance was left behind in the forests of Belgium or Germany as a result of being in the Battle of the Bulge.

Now I look forward with pleasant anticipation to the 66th reunion of The Ninth Infantry Division Association in New Orleans and a time to again meet with members, family and friends of the Association. May I consider this a benefit for having served in the best combat division?

On pages 10 through 12 is a draft of revised By-Laws for the Association. Attention Officers and Governors: Please review this draft thoroughly, prepare your comments and submit them if you can to Secretary-Treasurer Robey in advance of the reunion. Or, bring your comments to the Board of Governors meeting where the final set of By-Laws will be assembled and voted on by the Board of Governors.

Paul Schumacher, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

66th ANNUAL REUNION PROGRAM Sheraton Hotel - New Orleans 500 Canal Street New Orleans, Louisiana 70130 July 12, 13, 14, 2011

Monday, July 11, 2011

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Registration-Hospitality Room: Evergreen Room, 4th Floor

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Registration-Hospitality Room: Evergreen Room, 4th Floor

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Board of Governors Meeting: Southdown Room, 4th Floor

6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Reception and Dinner: Rhythms Room 1 & 2, 2nd Floor

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast: Gallery, 1st Floor

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Registration-Hospitality Room: Evergreen Room, 4th Floor

9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Memorial Service (Be seated by 9:00 a.m.): Waterbury Room, 2nd Floor

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Group Photo: Cost and Location: To Be Determined

12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. - Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon: To Be Determined

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Ladies Auxiliary General Business Meeting: To Be Determined

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Association General Business: Nottoway Room, 4th Floor

3:15 p.m. - Charter buses leave hotel for: World War II Museum

4:00 p.m. - Visit museum and dinner, return to hotel around 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 14, 2011

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. - Breakfast: Gallery, 1st Floor

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Registration-Hospitality Room: Evergreen Room, 4th Floor

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Sons & Daughters Auxiliary Meeting: To Be Determined

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Board of Governors Meeting: Southdown Room, 4th Floor

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Banquet Reception with open bar: Gallery, 1st Floor

7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Banquet: Gallery, 1st Floor

Friday, July 15, 2011

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast: Gallery, 1st Floor

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room: Evergreen Room, 4th Floor

8:00 a.m. to ??? - Say goodbye, check out and head for home

www.octofoil.org

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Editor's Note

Your editor wishes to apologize for the last issue of the newsletter. The picture quality was below acceptable standards. A new operating procedure has been instituted whereby the printer will now provide a paper copy for review and acceptance prior to printing the entire order. This may cause a delay in your receiving the newsletter.

Your continued cooperation and timeliness submitting all letters, photos, chapter reports, articles and so on to the editor, William Sauers, on or before **June 20, 2011** is appreciated. Items for publication sent anywhere else may be delayed or lost.

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

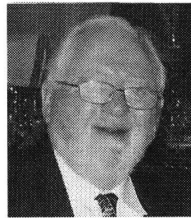
OUR MISSION

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



Clifford Barbanell (90)
San Francisco, Calif.



Albert M. Perna (90)
Glassboro, N.J.

Octofoil Library Project

The Octofoil Library Project would like to acknowledge the following donations:

Kathleen Avery in honor of **John Bosko**
Natalie Rudyk in honor of **John Bosko**

Thank you to all who continue to support our effort to electronically preserve all written material about the 9th Infantry Division and the subsequent evolution of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

The project is moving forward, albeit slowly, but want to share the latest progress. You can now access the following books on our website (www.octofoil.org).

- Eight Stars To Victory
- Hold Fast
- Follow Thru
- The Final Thrust
- The Ninth Infantry Division in Germany, September 1944 to May 1945, A History
- History of the 9th Infantry Division, The Old Reliables
- 9th Infantry Division, 1918-1968
- The 9th Infantry Division in WW II As Told By The Men
- Adventures By Men of the 60th Infantry Regiment in WW II - The Ninth Infantry Division
- Chronicle of the 39th Infantry Regiment from Normandy to the Elbe, June 1943 - May 1945, Parts 1 and 2
- History of The Ninth Reconnaissance Troop - Ninth Infantry Division
- Mission Accomplished - The Story of the Campaigns of the VII Corps United States Army in the War Against Germany, 1944 - 1945
- Pillbox Warfare in the Siegfried Line
- Hitler's Nemesis, The 9th Inf Division

Also, the first newsletter of the newly formed Ninth Infantry Division Association titled "Hitler's Nemesis-Old Reliables-Notorious Ninth, Volume 1, Issue 1" has been added to the website, others will be online in the coming months. This title was used for the first four issues of the newsletter until the association decided on the name "The Octofoil."

William Sauers

TIP OF THE HAT

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

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

Send to: William G. Robey, Secretary-Treasurer

Madeline W. Burr in memory of **Jack Collier**

Mary Doering in honor of **Tom Hatton** for the French Legion of Honor Medal; in memory of **Richard Irwin**; in memory of **Roger Alsgaard**

Helen Holmes General Fund donation

Barbara Saum in memory of her husband **Hal C. Saum**

Frances Schwartz in memory of her husband **Harry Schwartz**

John Compel in memory of his father **John Compel**

Paul Schumacher remembering the birthday of **Ellen Schumacher** on 6 November; honoring the long and gratifying friendship with **Neil Aberegg**; and, paying homage to **Jack Collier** for his vital contribution to our association

Jack F. Jewell in honor of **Albert J. Baccile, B/39**

Lillian Walters and family in memory of husband and father **Ervin C. Walters**

Ann and Mike Belmonte in memory of **John Clouser, Jack Collier, Gordon Anderson**

Dr. Martin Gross in memory of **Wallace Richardson**

Secretary-Treasurer Report

Let me give you a quick rundown on what happened to me in the last 5 months. In November 2010 I was at the doctor's to take a physical. The lab work revealed a very high potassium content and I was sent to the hospital for treatment for 5 days. Throughout the months of November and December I was in and out of the hospital several times trying to get the potassium level under control. While undergoing this treatment, the doctor's found my gall bladder highly infected. I had surgery to remove it in January and feel about 90% back to normal.

When making payments to the association please make your checks out properly. When paying for *The Octofoil*, do not make your check payable to *The Octofoil*. We do not have an account in that name. Also, do not make your checks payable to individuals as this means we have to have that person sign the check and mail it to me causing extra time and postage. Any money due the association should be sent to me and the check made payable to **9th Infantry Division Association**. When making payments for the reunion make the check payable to **66 Reunion 2011**. The above includes the Memorial Fund, dues, and donations to the association. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU MAKE YOUR CHECKS OUT PROPERLY.

Bill Robey, Secretary-Treasurer

Corrections

In the last issue Yuri Beckers email address was incorrect. It should read: yuri@9thininfantrydivision.net

2011 Reunion

Some updates on the progress of the reunion and other details. First, I have extended the deadline dates for reservations. You now have until May 1, 2011, to get your deposits in and June 15, 2011, to make final payments. No further extensions will be granted. Make your reservations right away as I need to keep the hotel updated on the numbers so they will know what to prepare for in each of our events.

As of March 15 we have 34 rooms reserved, a little less than last year at this time. Remember, it is easier to cancel a reservation than it is to make one at the last minute.

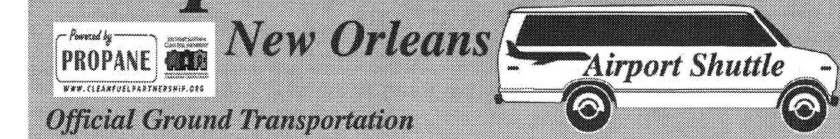
Below this article you will find information about the shuttle bus from the airport that you will have to pay for. The downtown hotels do not have free shuttles from the airport. You can make your shuttle reservations in advance and receive a discount. Also, if you are driving to New Orleans there is a parking problem in the downtown area. The hotels do not have free parking, but have garages attached to the hotels operated by independent parking garage companies. Our hotel parking garage charge will be \$20 per day. This is a discount from the normal \$33 per day charge.

If you have any special requests about your rooms, i.e. handicap, connecting rooms, special diets, lower floors, etc. be sure to put these on the reservation form. If you are not planning to stay in our hotel but want to attend all or some of the events, contact me and I will give the individual costs for each event. If you have children coming with you, please make sure you put their names on the reservation form. Children under 16 can stay free in the room with parents or grandparents. Children will still need to pay for any reunion events they attend. There will also be a children's menu at the various meals or they can eat full meals as everyone else. I need to know this information in advance.

Many will want to come in a day or two early or stay a day or two after which needs to be noted on the reservation form. The additional cost is \$117 per night per room (not per person). Dinner on Wednesday, July 13 will be at the World War II Museum. There will be buses picking us up at the hotel starting at 3:15 p.m. We will have time to tour the museum, have dinner and return to the hotel around 8:30 p.m. All other events will be in our hotel.

Bill Robey, Reunion Chairman

Airport Shuttle



Moving from the airport to your final destination has never been easier. *Airport Shuttle* can always get you where you're going safely, efficiently, and comfortably. Our drivers are uniformed, professional, courteous, and well-trained.

Airport Shuttle is the Official Ground Transportation Provider for the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. We offer transportation to and from downtown and uptown New Orleans hotels, the French Quarter, the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and the cruise terminals.

For departure reservations, please call 504-522-3500 no later than 24 hours prior to your flight. Your advance reservation will ensure your timely departure to the airport.

Rates are as follows:

- **Adults (6 or older):** A \$2.00 discount is offered with the purchase of a roundtrip ticket. The purchase of a roundtrip ticket is \$38.00 per person; \$20.00 One-Way per person.
- **Child (under 6)** Free
- **First 3 bags per passenger are Free**
- Travelers must provide their own child car seats or booster seats. *Airport Shuttle* does not provide child car/booster seats.
- If Wheelchair Accessible Service is needed please call our Reservation Department at 866-596-2699 for assistance.

You can also book your reservation online and receive a \$3.00 per person discount on a round trip fare. You must enter the following information exactly as shown in your browser window to access the special page to make your reservation:

<http://www.airportshuttleneworleans.com/9THDIV0711>

If you enter the above correctly you will see the association logo prominently displayed at the top of the page and you can begin to enter your reservation information. In case you have difficulty using this option you can call 866-596-2699 and select 3 at the voice menu to speak with a reservation agent between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. CDT. Identify yourself as being with The Ninth Infantry Division Association. Ask the agent to book your discounted reservation over the phone through The Ninth Infantry Division Association group. It is important that you provide an email address (yours, child, grandchild, great-grandchild) to allow the agent to send your tickets by email once the transaction is complete. If someone else's email is not available then you will have to obtain your ticket's when you arrive at the airport. If no email is available you can retrieve your ticket's at one of the airport ticket desks - currently located on the lower level of the terminal across from the bag claim areas 1, 6 and 12.

If you already have tickets in hand from booking online when you arrive at the airport, do the following:

- **Passengers do not need to stop at the Airport Shuttle Ticket Desk with their E-Ticket.**
- Please proceed to the lower level of the terminal and exit the doors located across from Baggage Claim area 6 onto the loading dock.
- Look for our staff to help direct you to the next available vehicle
- You can proceed directly to the van and present the ticket(s) to the driver at time of travel.

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

Gordon Anderson 9th Recon Troop	Karl F. Ballwanz D Co., 39th Inf. Regt.	James Russell Camp 9th MP Company
Lorraine Clark Widow of Paul Clark	Andrew H. Crawford F Co., 47th Inf. Regt.	Gino Felicelli Div Hq., AGO
Lester Litvin Hq/C Co.'s, 47th Inf.	Chester S. Mikus B Btry., 84 F.A. Bn.	Carl W. Price G Co., 60th Inf. Regt.
Harry S. Sager Hq, 2nd Bn, 60th Inf.	Colby Sinclair B Co., 60th Inf. Regt.	Ervin C. Walters M Co., 47th Inf. Regt.

TAPS LETTERS

Michael & Ann Belmonte

In the past year we have lost 3 Illinois members, first John Clouser, then Jack Collier and on March 1st, Gordon Anderson passed away. Gordon was in the 9th Recon Troop-Special Troops.

Gordon had been living in Tennessee with his son for the past few years. He was in and out of hospitals & nursing homes. He was cremated and in April will be returned to Illinois to be buried next to his wife Marian.

Gordon was secretary of the Illinois Chapter for many years.

This leaves Mike Belmonte, 91, as the last Illinois member. We sure do miss going to the reunions but circumstances prevent us from attending.

Signed, Ann Belmonte & Mike too

Just a note to let you know that Lorraine Clark passed away in December. She was the wife of Paul Clark who passed away some time ago. He was with the 60th Inf., D Co. We were informed by her daughter but we were unable to attend her wake & funeral.

We enjoyed reading the last issue of *The Octofail*. Sorry we had to miss the last reunion in Indianapolis. It was so close to us. We doubt that we will be attending the reunion in New Orleans and wish you the best. Our thoughts are with you and remembering all the reunions we attended in the past.

Signed, Mike & Ann Belmonte

Sue LaFleur

Enclosed find obituary of Andrew H. Crawford. I know he received *The Octofail* and has for years. Please print the last call in your paper. I would like a copy. He was a great man. Thank you.

Signed, Sue LaFleur

Adele Colozzo and Marguerite West

We regret to inform you of the death of our father, Gino Felicelli on January 12, 2011 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. He was 91 years young and very proud of his service to his country. He kept a daily journal from the day he enlisted in the Army until the day WWII ended. He later typed it up and it is forever a part of our family. He always spoke passionately about the 9th Infantry Division and the wonderful men and women that became his family throughout his service. He even had a license plate attached to the front of his vehicle displaying the 9th Infantry Division logo and occasionally would be stopped by citizens to reminisce. It always made him smile.

Signed, Marguerite West

Mary Nissim-Sabat

I must sadly inform you that my father, Chester S. Mikus, Sr. passed away on March 3, 2011 at the age of 97.

I am enclosing his obituary and will be making a donation in his memory in the near future.

My brothers and I grew up knowing all about the Ninth Division and always saw how our parents looked forward to the reunions, especially the one that was always held in Worcester, MA while Fr. Connors was still alive.

Another great soldier and man has been laid to rest.

Signed, Mary Lou Nissim-Sabat

Carla Henderson

Your publication came in the mail yesterday. I would have sent this information sooner if I'd known about your publication. Please include my father's obituary in your taps. We loved him very much and are missing him. We know he is in Heaven with our Lord, our Mother and our sister. Thank you.

Signed, Carla Henderson

TAPS OBITUARIES



Karl F. Ballwanz Jr.
1922 - 2011

D Company, 39th Infantry Regiment

On February 21, 2011, Karl Frederick Ballwanz Jr., "Charlie" of Locust Point; beloved husband of Dolores Helen "DEL" Ballwanz (nee Miller); loving father of Linda Marie Shanahan, Karl Frederick Ballwanz III and JoAnn Barbara Best; dear brother of William Ballwanz; loving grandfather of Aimee, Erik, Jennifer, Rebecca, Timothy, Andrew, Elizabeth and great-grandchildren, Dylan, William Karl, Mattie and Emma; dearest uncle of Roland "Reese" Ballwanz; and other nieces and nephews.

Andrew H. Crawford
1916 - 2011

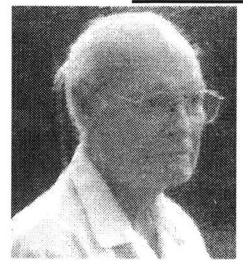
F Co., 47th Infantry Regiment

Andrew Hampson Crawford, 94, died March 6, 2011, at the Alice Hyde Nursing Home in Malone.

Born in Burke, August 29, 1916, he was the son of Wellington J. and Mildred Hampson Crawford. Mr. Crawford graduated from Chateaugay High School in 1935 and continued his education at the Adirondack School of Business, graduating in 1937. He was then employed by Northern New York Grocery Corporation. He worked there until May 27, 1942, when he enlisted in the United States Army. During World War II, he served with the 9th Infantry Division with the 47th Infantry Regiment. He served in Algeria French Morocco Tunisian Campaign, Sicilian Campaign, Normandy Campaign, Northern France Campaign and the Rhineland Campaign. He was promoted to sergeant and was injured when an explosive device exploded during the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic, meritorious service in combat, the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, and the Distinguished Unit Badge. He was authorized the African Middle Eastern Medal with six stars, the American Theatre Ribbon, and the World War II Victory Ribbon. At the time of his discharge on August 26, 1946, he was a staff sergeant. He then became employed for the Franklin County Highway Department, where he was employed for 31 years, retiring in 1978.

On June 6, 1953, he married the former Greta Gamble in North Burke Presbyterian Church. She predeceased him in 1972.

He is survived by two sons, daughter-in-law, a granddaughter and grandson.



Carl W. Price
1918 - 2010

G Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

Carl W. Price, age 92, of Hickory, NC, formerly of Holland, died Friday, December 10, 2010, in Hickory.

Carl was born December 9, 1918. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II. Prior to his retirement, Carl worked for Family Fare, The Holland Sentinel and Grand Rapids Press, Goodrich Welding, Lemon Fresh, Greebrier and SlickCraft (S2 Yachts). A charter member of Rose Park Baptist Church in Holland, he more recently attended Tabernacle Baptist Church in Hickory.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Leona; daughter, Linda Lou Cook; and a granddaughter, Sally Evink.

Surviving are several children, 32 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, a brother, and several nieces and nephews.

Chester S. Mikus
1913 - 2011

B Battery, 84 Field Artillery Battalion

Chester S. Mikus, Sr., 97, passed away peacefully at his daughter's home in Fredericksburg, Virginia on Thursday, March 3, 2011. He was born on October 1, 1913, in Philadelphia to Casimir and Mary Mikus, the second of 10 children.

He served in the 9th Infantry Division in World War II and was a veteran of eight campaigns in French North Africa, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and central Europe. He was decorated twice for extraordinary courage in battle.

He married Ayn Ryan in 1946 and lived in Moorestown, N.J., until moving to Spotsylvania in 1997. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Fredericksburg and the oldest member of the Bulldog Club of Philadelphia.

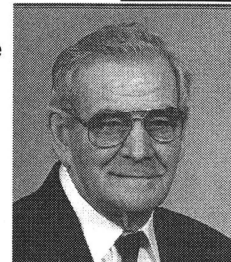
He was predeceased by his wife, Ayn, and his son Chester S. Mikus, Jr. He is survived by his daughter, his son, two brothers, and several grandchildren.

Harry S. Sager
1923 - 2011

Headquarters Co., 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

Harry S. Sager, 87, Fostoria, passed away Friday morning, January 7, 2011 at Good Shepherd Home, Fostoria. He was born July 5, 1923 in Seneca County to the late Harry and Florence (McHaffie) Sager. He married Blondina Keifer-Brandeberry and she survives in Fostoria. Also surviving are his nephew, nieces and stepchildren. He was preceded in death by sisters Miriam Harden and Helen Kovach; and a nephew, Kenny Kovach.

Harry was a World War II Army veteran, having served in the 9th Infantry Division. After leaving the Army, and until 2003, Harry donated an accumulative total of 26 gallons of blood.



Ervin C. Walters
1920 - 2011

M Company, 47th Infantry Regiment

Ervin C. Walters was born on January 3, 1920 at St. Nicholas, Stearns County, Minnesota. He was the son of John and Katherine (Rausch) Walters. Ervin served in the U.S. Army from June 1942 to October 1945 and was involved in all 8 major campaign battles. He earned the Bronze and

Silver Star Medals and the France Liberation Medal of Honor. On November 12, 1949, Ervin was united in marriage to Lillian Marschel in Minneapolis. They resided in Minneapolis and Bloomington where Ervin was employed as a foreman for Model Stone Company for 35 years. Ervin retired in 1983 and they moved to a home on Clear Lake near Watkins. Ervin was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Watkins. He was also a member of the Kimball American Legion. His hobbies included fishing and hunting, crossword and jigsaw puzzles, playing cards and dancing. He especially enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Ervin and Lillian loved to travel and have visited both coasts, Hawaii, and were to Alaska four times. Ervin became ill about a year ago and was recently hospitalized. He became a resident at the Hilltop Care Center in Watkins on February 4th where he passed away on February 15th at the age of 91 years, 1 month and 12 days. Ervin is survived by his wife, Lillian Walters of Watkins; children and their spouses; 8 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren; and a sister-in-law.

CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS

TEXAS & THE GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

We have met so many time over the years at Summers Mill, the Bluebonnet Lodge should be christened "The Old Reli-ables." So once again on November 5-6, 2010, the hearty band of four old men held forth under tranquil November skies.

Charles Illsley drove up from Corpus Christi, Texas, on the Gulf Coast. Shunning the freeway, he drove the less traveled roads, a five hour trip. Going through some small towns in Texas one needs to observe the speed laws as some municipalities finance their government with traffic fines. Charles did not contribute to their well-being.

At the evening barbeque on November 5, we had invited guests and one non-invited guest that stopped by in the middle of the night to empty the garbage can. We believe the culprit was the large tan dog that had appeared the previous afternoon obviously on a recon patrol. Thanks to Herb and Kathy's son, Doctor Charles Stern, he picked up the debris. We would have helped but once we got down to pick up the trash, then the Doctor would have had to pick us up.

On Friday morning, we brought and prepared our breakfast, forgoing the catering service of past years. Herb had assigned a role for each of us to bring certain components. The response was a bit overwhelming and we probably could have fed all sixty of the original chapter members, had they been present.

On the medical front, Herb has had some follow-up treatments of the previous surgery. Then over Christmas, your correspondent heard from W.M. (Dub) Lynch, who now resides in Nashville, Tenn. Dub relates that he had two heart by-passes and then dealing with a blood clot. It will take more than that to keep an old H Company, 47th Regiment machine gunner down.

Dub's note recalled to mind his officiating at John Miller's funeral. He used the analogy of recalling memories from the foot locker that he kept at the foot of his bed. One of the most moving addresses I have ever heard.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 7-8, 2011, at Summers Mill.

My apologies for missing the last issue of *The Octofoil*.
Gordon A. Schneider, Secretary



Emil De Donato

FLORIDA CHAPTER

Super Bonanza Deal: All up-to-date dues paying members of the Florida Chapter should have received the information sheet, fact sheet, and the order form. The chapter reunion will be in Daytona Beach, Florida from May 2 through May 4. If any member has not received the mailing and would like to attend, please get in touch with me at [redacted] or email to [redacted] before April 22. For \$150.00 two person in a room you get 3 nights lodging at the Plaza Ocean Club Hotel, the pizza party on Monday night, 2 hot and cold breakfasts at the hotel restaurant, 2 dinners at the Olive Garden, hospitality room snacks and drinks, all gratuities, miscellaneous expenses, and free parking.

Why such a Super Bonanza Deal? Because you, the members, asked for it! During the last chapter business meeting, the Treasurer reported a healthy balance in the treasury. A motion was made seconded and voted to authorize subsidizing the reunion expenses. Now it's up to you to take advantage of this deal. If any non-member would like to join us please contact me as noted above. Anyone wishing to arrive before May 2 or remain for a few days after May 4 will have to pay the regular \$64.00 per night room rate.

(continued next column)

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

We received word that Pauline Gowen will attend our reunion. Pauline and her late husband attended many chapter reunions. Ed passed away June 6, 2007. He served with Co. A, 15th Engineers. Pauline may come with her daughter.

Emil and Audrey De Donato celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on February 4, 2011. Their three sons arranged to have a Mass said at St. John's Catholic Church in Dunnellon where they renewed their vows. Two of their three sons plus five grandchildren joined them in a family dinner at Lombardo's Restaurant.

Ira Moser has been in the hospital several times to have fluid drained. Faye has reported that he is doing much better and they are planning to be at the reunion. Ira's son and his wife may join them.

Jackie and Herb Frank are fine and ready to attend our reunion.

TAPS SOUNDED

An email from Thalia Valerio Sinclair stated that Colby Sinclair passed away and is buried in the Veteran's Memorial Gardens, Daytona Memorial Park. He served with Co. B, 60th Inf. Regt. Lilly Litven wrote saying her husband, Lester, died on December 22, 2010. He served with Hq Co., 47th Inf. Regt. and later with Co. C, 47th shortly after hostilities ended in Sicily. The Litvins lived in Port Lucie, Fla., however, Lilly is now living in Manalapan, N.J. Lester was a Life Member of the chapter.

Helen Camp sent a note stating her husband, Russell, passed away in February 2011. Helen and Russell attended our chapter reunion in Kissimmee, Fla. They combined the reunion with spending a few days with their daughter who lived in Kissimmee. Russell served with the 9th MP's during WWII. Condolences may be sent to Helen at [redacted]

News wanted: Please send any news to Emil J. De Donato, 3650 [redacted]



Marv Levy

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

The New York Chapter did not meet during the months of January and February, 2011 - the snowiest winter in New York's history. On a spring like day on March 18, four ninth men attended a meeting at our regular command post in the Franklin Square Public Library, Franklin Square, L.I., N.Y. - Anton Dietrich, Arno Heller, Joe Killen, and Al Zenka.

Other regularly attending members Tony Varone and Joe Maiale were ensconced in their winter homes in Florida. Joe Charvat, Ed Harris, Bill Muldoon and this scribe were home with personal or family illness. No formal meeting was held and the four stalwarts chatted for the allotted time till 3:00 p.m., when the group headed home.

The next meeting is scheduled a week earlier on Friday, April 8 at 1:00 p.m. instead of the 3rd week of the month, because of other library commitments on the 15th.

Marv Levy, Recording Secretary



CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS

LADIES CORNER



Rosalyn Gross
President

We are once again having our Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon in New Orleans on Wednesday, July 13, 2011. The cost for the lunch will be \$18.00. Annual dues for the Ladies Auxiliary are \$5.00. If you would like to attend the luncheon, please send your checks made out to **Ladies Auxiliary, 9th Infantry Division** and send to: Jean Geary, 1305 East Livingston Street, Allentown, PA 18109.

You are welcome to combine annual dues and luncheon cost in one check for \$23.00 if desired. Deadline for checks is June 25, 2011. Please note if you are a vegetarian so we may accommodate your needs at the luncheon.

The luncheon is open to the Ladies Auxiliary and any Sons and Daughters who would like to attend. We traditionally have a small gift exchange - a Pollyanna gift exchange - so please bring a small gift to share (maximum \$5.00). And, it would be helpful to bring your Ladies Auxiliary membership card with you to avoid the cost of printing new ones.

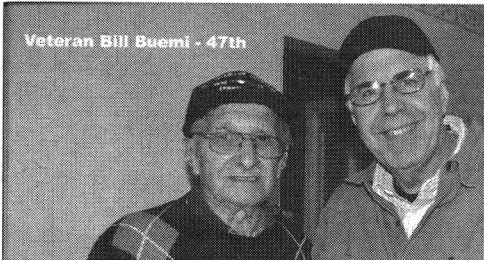
We are asking for donations for the Ladies Auxiliary Raffle table in New Orleans. If you can supply any items to be raffled - for men or women - it would be appreciated. This is our major fundraiser! Any questions? Ask Jean Geary: [redacted]

Laissez les bons temps rouler! (Let the good times roll!) and hope to see you all soon.
Roz Gross, President
Ladies Auxiliary

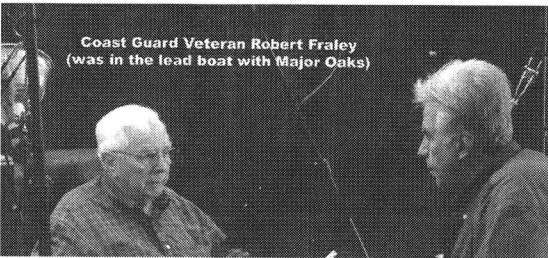
Photos from Mike Fraticelli



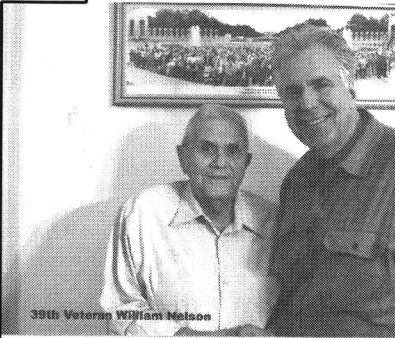
Joe Barnett 39th
Troy Michigan



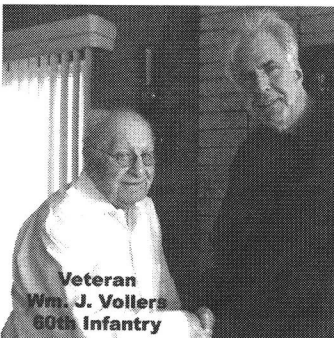
Veteran Bill Buemi - 47th



Coast Guard Veteran Robert Fraley
(was in the lead boat with Major Oaks)



39th Veteran William Nelson



Veteran
Wm. J. Vollers
60th Infantry



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: _____

Address: _____

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

E-mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ }
Cell Phone: _____ } CHECK CALLING PREFERENCE



Aerial view of Oberkirchen circa 1940 as provided by Georg Droste.

THE OBERKIRCHEN DIARY (Part One)

A German Perspective of the Ruhr Pocket Battle by the Second Battalion/47th

By Terry R. Barnhart, son of Robert G. Barnhart, E Company/47th. Infantry Regiment

The Battle of Oberkirchen in the "Ruhr Pocket" from April 3-4, 1945 was the next important engagement of the Second Battalion/47th Infantry Regiment after the Remagen Bridgehead Battle of March 8-24, 1945. Elements of the 47th received Presidential Unit Citations for heroic and unyielding action for both battles.

Oberkirchen is a small crossroads village located in the Sauerland Region of Germany with an iconic Catholic church that dates from the 17th Century. In late March of 1945, Allied Forces moved quickly to surround 350,000 German troops along the industrial Ruhr River Valley. Oberkirchen was one of the major German escape routes to the east. The Second Battalion/47th was called upon to take Oberkirchen and to seal off this critical road network. G Company took the lead, but got bogged down in several skirmishes north of Bad Berleberg. Companies E and F and portions of heavy weapons company H and tanks from the 746th Tank Battalion and 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion continued toward Oberkirchen through rain and light resistance securing the village by 1800 hours on 3 April.

It was after dark on the 3rd that the real battle began. Portions of E Company were overrun several times as the two day battle saw back and forth. (The late Jack Blann's Second Platoon of E Company was held in reserve on a hill overlooking the village.) In the end, the Second Battalion/47th succeeded in holding the village of Oberkirchen. Silver Stars were awarded to both Battalion Commander, Col. Lewis "Chip" Maness, and E Company Commander, Captain Frank Petty, for heroic leadership during the battle.

*Following the 65th Anniversary ceremony in March, 2010 at the Peace Bridge Museum at Remagen, I traveled to Oberkirchen while tracing my father's footsteps with E Company. There I met the local mailman Christian Schauerte who in turn introduced me to others including gasthaus owner, Georg Droste. Schauerte said that his father had always told him that the village changed hands seven times over the course of two days. According to the *Eight Stars to Victory* this appears to be true. Droste provided me with an untranslated diary written by an unknown German Fraulein before, during and after the Battle of Oberkirchen. She was likely a family friend of some Oberkirchen residents and was living near the old St. Gertrud Church in the lower village with her mother and brother because their home village had been bombed.*

The following is a translation of that unpublished diary that was given to George Droste's late father. The first part below describes the conditions in the village before the battle and the second part to be published in the next Octofoil will describe the two day battle. The diary has been edited for brevity, but hopefully the meaning and story remains true to the author's intent. It provides a unique and surprisingly accurate glimpse from a German civilian's perspective of the Battle of Oberkirchen.

(continued on page 9)

(The Oberkirchen Diary...continued from page 8)

Wednesday, 27th March, Easter Week

I will never forget this day! For two weeks our quiet Oberkirchen had received a lot of military troops. There was no night without a military guest, who put his tired head on our sofa. The mood of the soldiers and the officers was without any hope. Many, many defeated soldiers came through our village, without discipline, without food, (and) totally confused. It was a picture of pain and pity with so many people, who had been forced to this fight by an idiot. The big basin (the so called "Ruhr Pocket" by the U.S. military historians) had been nearly closed by the clever strategy of the Americans. Where should the soldiers escape?

Thursday, March, 28th 1945.

Easter Week mood!! Bad weather!! Rain! Rain! and rain again!! But we want to thank God for the bad weather, as in other conditions the American troops would have disturbed the German retreat. It is an endless retreat that is happening on the roads. During afternoon and evening we gave food and accommodations to soldiers again. Some of them were on their own, who were separated from their troops (units), and some of them are tiny parts of former troops, who want to escape the enemy. The village is over crowded; the road is an endless chain of driving and walking soldiers.

Friday, 29th March 1945

Good Friday! Still rain and retreat! Easter week 1945 will be in our memory forever!!

I cycle to Fredeburg at 6 A.M. in the morning to get meat for the whole house for Easter. I stand in the queue from 7-11 A.M. and I need a long time for the way back home. Totally exhausted I arrive at home. On the way I see that there are not only retreating troops but also troops going ahead (into battle). For me as a cyclist with a lot of heavy luggage, it is not easy to get through. We are scared about the changing situation. Before that, we had the hope to have little contact with the enemy, but now we all know that we will become a battlefield. We are already standing at the front-line. It will only take hours or some days until the enemy will arrive at Oberkirchen. The fight is inevitable.

Saturday, 30th March 1945

The mood here is very bad. The soldiers are without any courage. The inhabitants of Oberkirchen are very excited. People become restless and nervous. They talk and talk and make everybody nervous. Tank after tank is rolling towards the front-line. It is sinister. Tanks remain in our village and queue there at Dueppe family, at Luisschen Kersting, at Meyer, at the bridge at Schuette, at Vogt and in the upper village. The night from Saturday to Sunday is restless as never before. During the night, I can hardly close my eyes. In front of our house the tanks make a terrible noise. Also at Feldmann, opposite to us there is such a monster. With a lot of noise begins Easter Sunday in Oberkirchen!

Easter Sunday 31st March 1945

We go to church for the service of resurrection. We all receive the Holy Communion; it calms you down when you know that God is with you in those hard hours. Easter Sunday (and) it is raining. Thanks to God! When we come back from church we receive the first military guest of this day, who shares Easter breakfast with us. He is a sergeant, who is looking for a place to stay for his Lieutenant Stadlaender. Our billeting arrives. He is a very tall blond man, the Lieutenant Stadlaender, you just have to like. Stadlaender is our guest for the whole day. Due to his presence I forget a bit the severity of this hour. I do not look at all the many tank soldiers, who are always busy on the look out. We have finished packing: food, clothes, important documents and papers. This day nothing happens yet. We are use to the big noise on the road. The weather is bad, so we need not fear the planes. Our lieutenant is with us. He has established a telephone in our living room and promised to tell us if there appears any danger. He also tells us that his troops are not directly operating and that they would leave the place if the enemy would arrive. Is that true? We have the officers here and the officers invited us. Besides Stadlaender arrive the commanders of the department: Hermann Bohne and Lieutenant Gremmel. It becomes a cosy nice evening. We have additionally invited Frau Binz. The officers offer alcohol, cigarettes and biscuits. We try to create a cosy atmosphere in our home to give everybody a feeling of shelter and security. We enjoyed everything, perhaps for the last time. We enjoyed carelessly until the arrival of the new day.

Monday 2nd April 1945

While waking up we hear again terrible noise, the artillery bombardment started on Oberkirchen. Our tanks leave. Nevertheless our blond lieutenant is still sleeping. When he gets up he thanks mom for the cosy evening and asks in the name of his commander, if we could arrange a (another) meeting like that one day. Stadlaender thinks, due to the near danger, that it would not be the right thing (to leave) any more. We offer him a cup of coffee during the afternoon. Stadlaender tell us about his life, from his parents. We feel that he seems to be an old friend. Half past 5, our talking is disturbed by an artillery shot. Now the enemy is here. The village is threatened. We equip the cellar with Stadlaender's advice. "The cellar will protect you," he says, "you can stay here." He carries our suitcases into the cellar (and) our food; he is at our side faithfully. We have a dinner together. I make some bread and butter. We eat standing. I am not afraid. The artillery is shooting into the village vehemently, but not every shot hits. Half past 8 the car arrives. Stadlaender and Captain Bohn say good-bye. "All the best for the hard days ahead," Stadlaender says. "Good luck in the war," I answer. We all know that a very hard time is coming, that we again will feel the war. "My lady," says Captain Bohn, "I give you the advice (to go) to the cellar in the rocks." We looked at each other; mom and I knew what that meant (i.e. go to the slate quarry at the edge of the village). The Captain did not say that without reason. He already knew of the command "to defend the village of Oberkirchen."

Equipped with candles we went into the (house) cellar, now we, the civilians, had to be brave. How has God decided about our fate? We remained awake praying the whole night while outside was heavy artillery fire. Around midnight a soldier came to the cellar, wounded by artillery shots. We checked his injury, gave him milk for drink and bread and butter to eat. As time went by and his sergeant did not return at all, he went accompanied by our best wishes for good luck in the war.

(To be continued in the next issue.)

Editor's Note:
The proposed new bylaws are shown below. Spelling errors, new sections, and changes to existing sections are printed in italics.

BY-LAWS
THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

As Adopted by the Annual Meeting 8 May 2002
Corrected and Amended 19 October 2002
Corrected and Amended 18 August 2007

ARTICLE I INTRODUCTION

Section 1 — The Ninth Infantry Division Association is registered as a Corporation under the laws of the State of Illinois.

This Association is formed by the officers and men of the Ninth 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 the everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities, and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the Ninth Infantry Division.

Section 2 — The Resident agent of the Corporation is to be a resident of the State of Illinois. The principle office shall be in the Village of Oak Park, County of Cook, State of Illinois. The principal office of the Corporation can also be at such place as the Board of Governors shall designate without further amending these By-Laws.

Section 3 — The Corporate Seal of the Corporation shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Corporation, and the words "Corporate Seal, Illinois, 1957. Said seal may be used by causing it or a facsimile thereof to be impressed or affixed or otherwise reproduced.

Section 4 — The National Association shall be the sole authority for establishing the official emblem of the Ninth Infantry Division Association and for controlling the issuance, manufacture and distribution of such emblems and insignias.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Section 1 — Any individual who wore the Octofoil from 7 December 1941 to 7 May 1945, and served honorably in the Ninth Infantry Division is eligible for membership in the Association. Veterans who served with the following units which were assigned or attached to the Ninth Infantry Division during the same wartime period are eligible for membership under the same conditions as other veterans of the Division. The 70th Tank Battalion; 746th Tank Battalion; 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion; and the 376th Anti-Aircraft (AW) Battalion. *The above named individuals are eligible for Regular Annual Member category only. No other category of membership is available.*

Section 2 — No person who has ever been dishonorably discharged from the service of the United States of America shall be eligible for membership.

Section 3 - *All widows of the above named veterans (Section 1), descendants of the above named veterans (Section 1), and the general public are eligible to apply for the Associate Member category of membership. This category of individuals will not have any voting rights or interest in the property of the association. This category allows individuals to apply for and receive a subscription to The Octofoil newsletter, the official publication of The Ninth Infantry Division Association, upon payment of the subscription fee.*

Section 4 - *Widows of veterans can also apply for membership in the Ladies Auxiliary of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.*

Section 5 - *Descendants and the general public can also apply for membership in the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.*

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

Section 1 — There shall be an Annual Meeting of the membership for the purpose of electing the Board of Governors, and for the transaction of any other lawful business. This meeting shall be held at such date and place as may be fixed by the Board of Governors. At least thirty (30) days notice of the time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be given to all members. Each member in good standing and present at the meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

Section 2 — The presence in person one (1) hour before the first business meeting of at least 25% of the members registered at the Annual Meeting will constitute a quorum for the duration of the Reunion. This 25% number shall constitute a quorum at all meeting of the members for the transaction of business except as otherwise provided by law, by the certificate of incorporation, or these By-Laws.

Section 3 — If this 25% number shall not be present at any meeting of the Association, the members present in person shall have the power to adjourn the meeting from time to time to without notice, other than an announcement in the meeting, until the requisite number of members shall be present. At such adjourned meeting at which the requisite number of members shall be present, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting as originally notified. All elections and all question shall be decided by plurality vote.

Section 4 — Special meetings of the members, for any purposes, unless prohibited by statute, may be called by the President.

Section 5 — The meeting of the Corporation will be conducted in such a manner that the present or past rank of the members will have no bearing upon the right to participate, right of discussion, or of holding office in this Association.

Section 6 — In conjunction with each Annual Meeting of the membership, various function may be held, as distinct from the business sessions of the Association. Such functions to be known collectively as the Annual Reunion. At each annual membership meeting, the Board of Governors shall name a person to be General Chairman for the next reunion.

ARTICLE IV DUES, CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Section 1 — The membership of the Association shall be divided into: Regular Annual Members, Three-year Members (*to be phased out*), Associate Members, Sustaining Members (*to be phased out*), and Life Members (*to be phased out*). Any person eligible for *Regular Annual Member* in the Association may become a member by paying the appropriate dues and applying to the Secretary-Treasurer who will issue such applicant a card, according to the design and style decided upon by the Board of Governors, bearing a facsimile signature of the Secretary-Treasurer, indicating the type of membership to which the applicant has been admitted.

Section 2 — The dues of a *Regular Annual Member* shall be Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) per year payable to *The Ninth Infantry Division Association*, (except as otherwise provided below in Section 8), and upon payment of such dues the regular member, from July 1st of the current year to June 30th of the following year following, shall be entitled to rights and privileges of membership. *Payment of an additional twenty dollars (\$20.00) per year will be required for a subscription to The Octofoil, the official newsletter of the association, from July 1 of the current year to June 30th of the following year and must be renewed annually.*

Section 3 — *The Three Year Member category is being phased out. Current veteran individuals who have paid for a Three Year Member will be honored until their membership expires. Upon expiration they will be converted to Regular Annual Member category and be required to pay an annual subscription fee for The Octofoil, the official publication of The Ninth Infantry Division Association per Section 2.*

(continued on page 11)

(By-Laws continued from page 10)

Section 4 — *The Sustaining Member category is being phased out.*

Section 5 — *The Life Member category is being phased out. Current veteran Life Members will retain their status as Life Members. No new Life Member memberships will be offered. Payment of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per year will be required for a subscription to The Octofoil, the official publication of The Ninth Infantry Division Association. The subscription fee payment will be from July 1 of the current year to June 30th of the following year and must be renewed annually.*

Section 6 — *Deleted*

Section 7 — A card shall be issued to Regular and Associate Members upon payment of the prescribed dues. Each membership card shall indicate the length of time it is valid (*one year from July 1 to June 30*) and shall be signed and countersigned as herein provided. A membership card in distinctive form *has been* issued to Life Members. *No new Life Member cards will issued.*

Section 8 — *Duly recognized local chapters are authorized to collect dues in the amounts set forth above in Section 2 through 6, and are further authorized to deduct the following sums from each member's dues so collected; the balance in each case is to be remitted to the National Secretary-Treasurer who will issue the appropriated membership card.*

Regular Members	\$2.00
Three-Year Members	\$5.00 (<i>to be phased out</i>)
Sustaining Members	\$2.00 plus one-third of any amount received in excess of \$10.00 per member (<i>to be phased out</i>)
Life Members	\$15.00 (<i>to be phase out</i>)

Section 9 — Any member in default of dues on June 30th of any year shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the members nor to receive any of the benefits of the Association. Each member in default of dues shall be notified of such default by the Secretary-Treasurer. Any member in default shall be reinstated in good standing upon payment of his current years' dues. *Any member in default of the subscription renewal fee on June 30 of any year will be immediately removed from the mailing list for The Octofoil newsletter. The subscription can be renewed at any time by sending the correct payment to the office of the editor who will reinstate the member on the mailing list and forward the renewal fee to the Secretary-Treasurer.*

Section 10 — Any member may at any time resign by notification to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 11 — *Deleted*

ARTICLE V BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 1a — The members of the Association at the Annual Meeting shall elect by plurality vote sufficient members of the Board of Governors so that it will consist of a total of eleven (11) members, this goal shall be reached by attrition, and not by removing any members for the purpose of reduction of numbers. A quorum shall consist of six (6) members of the Board. All Board members shall be elected at large, and not from each chapter. Each member of the Board shall serve three years or until his successor is chosen and qualified. No more than three (3) members from any one chapter may serve on the Board at any one time. Members of the Board may not succeed themselves. Any service beyond this first term shall be only after one year of non-serving on the Board has passed. Members-elect of the Board of Governors shall take office immediately following their election at the Annual Meeting.

Section 1b — The Board of Governors shall manage the affairs of the Association with full power to perform all lawful actions to carry out the purposes of the Association, but may not perform any actions which by statute, or by certificate of incorporation, or by these By-Laws are directed or required to be performed by the members.

Section 1c — The members of the Association at the Annual Meeting shall also elect by plurality vote, an alternate for each member elected to the Board of Governors. In the absence of the regular Board Member at any meeting of the Board of Governors, said alternate member shall serve with full powers to act in his place, and shall be eligible for election to the next full term.

Section 2 — Past Presidents of the Association and past members of the Board of Governors become associate members of the Board. Associate Members of the Board may attend Board meetings and may take part in the discussions by may not vote. Associate membership on the Board shall not prevent the future election of such associate as a regular member of the Board.

Section 3 — The Board of Governors may hold their meetings and keep the books of the Association outside of the State of Illinois at such other places as they may from time to time determine.

Section 4 — If the office of any Governor or Governors becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, removal from office, or otherwise; a majority of the remaining Governors, though less than a quorum, shall choose a successor or successors, who shall hold office for the unexpired term in respect to which such vacancy occurred.

Section 5 — The Board of Governors shall have power to fix the compensation, if any, of all officers and employees of the Association.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Section 1 — The Board of Governors may, by resolution passed by a majority of the whole Board, designated *two* or more of their number to constitute an executive committee, which, to the extent provided in said resolution or in the By-Laws of the Association, shall have and exercise the powers of the Board of Governors in the management of the business and affairs of the Association, and may have power to authorize the seal of the Association to be affixed to all papers that require it. The Board may from time to time appoint other committees which shall consist of such membership, have such powers and duties, and be known by such name as the Board of Governors shall by resolution designate.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 1 — Meetings of the Board of Governors shall be held at such place within or without the State of Illinois as shall be fixed by the members, or if no such place is fixed, then at a place which the Board of Governors may fix by waiver of notice, provided a majority of the whole Board shall be present. Special meeting of the Board may be called by the President on ten (10) days notice to each Governor, either personally, *by U.S. Postal mail, FedEx, UPS or by electronic mail.*

ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS

Section 1 — The officers of the Corporation shall be chosen by the Board of Governors and shall consist of a President; First, Second, and Third Vice-Presidents; a Judge Advocate; and a Secretary-Treasurer. The President shall be elected from among the members of the Board of Governors for a one year term, and shall not be eligible to succeed himself. None of the other officers need be a member of the Board of Governors.

Section 2 — The Board of Governors may also appoint such other officers and agents as it shall deem necessary and who shall hold office for such terms and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be assigned from time to time by the Board. Any officer elected or appointed by the Board may be removed for cause at any time by the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the whole Board of Governors. Any vacancy shall be filled by the Board.

(continued on page 12)

(By-Laws continued from page 11)

Section 3 — Such honorary officers as the Board of Governors may desire, may be selected, and these persons may be assigned such duties as are deemed necessary and desirable. Each Commanding General of the Ninth Infantry Division who served as such during the from 7 December 1941 to 24 August 1945, shall be an honorary President of the Association.

ARTICLE IX PRESIDENT

Section 1 — The President shall preside at all meetings of the members and the Board of Governors and shall assist in the formation of all policies of the Association. The President shall also meet and confer with other associations and agencies with a view to accomplishing the purpose for which this Association is formed. The President shall have all of the other usual duties of the office of President as well as such additional powers and duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Governors. The President shall not be eligible to succeed himself.

ARTICLE X VICE-PRESIDENTS

Section 1 — In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice-Presidents, in order from the First to the Third, shall assume the duties of the President. They shall also have such other powers and duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President, or by the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE XI SECRETARY-TREASURER

Section 1 — The Secretary-Treasurer shall perform all of the duties necessary to carry out the purposes and policies set forth by the Association. He shall be responsible for maintaining the main office and any branch offices of the Association. He shall maintain a record for every member of the Association, and insofar as possible, he shall keep a like record for every person eligible to become a member of the Association. He shall be responsible for the preparation of the meeting places of the members and the program for such meetings. He shall also be responsible for keeping the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Governors and of the annual meetings of the members.

Section 2 — The Secretary-Treasurer shall collect the membership dues from every member of the Association except those dues collected through the chapters of the Association, and shall issue a membership card to the member. The Secretary-Treasurer shall deposit in a designated bank all moneys of the Association.

Section 3 — The Secretary-Treasurer shall have charge of the books and accounts of the Association and shall enter thereon all receipts and disbursements. These books shall be kept current at all times and open to inspection at any time by any member of the Board of Governors. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Association and shall have the authority to make disbursements there from, subject to the following restrictions:

General Fund: The General Fund of the Association shall be maintained as a separate account which shall contain the deposits of all receipts of the Association. Disbursements from the General Fund shall be only as directed by the Board of Governors, except that the Secretary-Treasurer may expend in any one month for corporate purposes an amount not in excess of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) without prior approval by the Board of Governors.

Section 4 — The Secretary-Treasurer shall submit at each annual meeting of the Association, a statement of receipts and disbursements of the Association and of the financial condition of the Association and shall likewise submit a similar statement to the Board of Governors at each of their meetings and whenever called for by the Board of Governors.

Section 5 — A blanket position bond to cover all funds shall be obtained and charged to the General Fund.

Section 6 — All checks or demands for funds and notes of the Association shall be signed by any two of the following three officers: President, 1st Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer. Appropriate signature records shall be submitted to the Corporate Bank whenever there is a change in either of these officer positions.

Section 7 - The Secretary-Treasurer shall submit all accounting records, check books, and any other financial records to an authorized Certified Public Accountant within thirty (30) days notice for a required annual audit of the financial records of the Association. The CPA will be selected and authorized by the Board of Governors. The results of this audit will be sent to the President, 1st Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and editor of The Octofoil. The editor will publish the results of the annual audit in the newsletter.

ARTICLE XII LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section 1 — Local chapters of the Ninth Infantry Division Association may be established by the presentation to the National Association of a petition for a local chapter. Such petitions must be signed by at least Twenty-Five (25) members in good standing in the National Association and who are not already members of recognized chapter, and the National Association may thereupon notify said chapter that it has been duly recognized. In localities where the potential membership is less than Twenty-Five (25), a petition signed by less than twenty-five members in good standing may be accepted.

Section 2 — Each local chapter shall hold an election of officers at least once every Twenty-Four (24) months and shall duly notify the National Secretary-Treasurer of the results of the election. Any chapter failing to hold an election of officers within a Twenty-Four (24) month period shall be considered as being inactive. All monies and property of an inactive chapter shall be transmitted to the National Association. This is the responsibility, in order of seniority, of any former officer or member of an inactive chapter.

Section 3 — Membership in local chapters is dependent on the member first being a member of the National Association. No member of a local chapter shall be allowed to participate in the business of a local chapter if that person is not a member of the National Association. It is the responsibility of the President and/or the Secretary of the local chapters to make sure that all memberships are current and so notify the National Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE XIII NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Section 1 — Whenever under the provisions of these by-laws notice is required to be given to any Governor or member, such notice may be given, in writing by mail, that is, depositing the same in the post office or letter box, in a prepaid sealed wrapper, addressed to such Governor or member at the address which appears on the books of the Association, or, in default of other address, by publication in The Octofoil and such notice shall be deemed to be given at the time when it shall be thus mailed.

Section 2 — Any notice required to be given under these by-laws may be waived in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to said notice, whether before or after the time stated therein.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

Section 1 — These by-laws may be amended, changed, or repealed by the affirmative vote of a majority of those members present at any annual or special meeting of the members, provided notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given in a notice of the meeting. Alternatively, they may be amended, changed or repealed by a vote of the Board of Governors at any meeting of the Board provided notice of the proposed change shall have been given in the notice of the meeting.

Corrected and adopted by the membership at the annual meeting on 18 August 2007, at Grand Rapids, Michigan

MAIL CALL

Ronald MacArthur Hirst

Germany

CHRISTMAS 2010

So that everyone understands we'll start out with Vrolijk Kerstmis=Fröhliche Weihnachten=Wesolych Swiat=Joyeux Noël=or, Merry Christmas, to all.

Our Christmas letter this year will be reduced in length and there will be but one version. Numbers of the 32 Airlift families have not only passed on or failed to offer us a new address. We now have contact with but twelve families. Likewise numbers of our staunch Norman (French) friends have too picked up their Silver Wings and though family remains, they are not of our generation and thus do not have the same feelings for our greetings.



Ronald and Ingeborg Hirst
Thanksgiving 2010

The year, as usual has been full. Not with frequent visitors (unfortunately) but with activity here at home. The crowning thing was usual jams/jellies activities. Yes, annually Ingeborg busies herself in her kitchen making and canning strawberries, quince, yellow plums (Mirabelle) and most recently, pumpkin. Sufficient to last the winter. Nothing beats home made jams!

Taking care of a garden with over 60 rose bushes, one grapevine, an azalea bush, three rhododendrons, countless iris, 4 large hydrangeas among others in our large yard. You'd better believe, it occupies our spring/summer.

Now Ronald is preparing the final shipment to his collection in the Stanford University's Hoover Archives, by next spring his study will be bare. What the Hoover does not take will be donated to the American Library in the Gutenberg University (Mainz) or to the Wiesbaden Archive. Private papers, over 40,000 photographs, a postcard collection, and his entire library (with a few exceptions). Then too his 22 Normandy trip reports, his Airlift trip reports to Berlin, and all of his Ludendorff (Remagen) RR bridge collection.

We are now looking forward to the visit of Ingeborg's sister, Helga, who is coming over next spring, no summer with her entire family some 13/14 people. They'll be joined by our son and his wife, Lexi. Should be an exciting 4/5 days before they all motor off the Italy and other parts of the Continent.

We two are holding our own. We hear naught from Ronald's brother's widow nor their five children. Otherwise we maintain contact with Ingeborg and my relatives, both here on the Continent and in the US of A. US Government (i.e. US Army) are squandering our taxpayer dollars here in Wiesbaden to the tune of some half billion dollars to quarter a US Army HQ in the city, but that is another story.

We miss you all, the door is always open, if you can not visit, write. Have a happy holiday and may the new year smile on all of you.

Henry G. Phillips

I have been reading Tom Brokaw's excellent compendium, "The Greatest Generation," and come across his mini-biography of Rev. Harry R. Hammond of the Anglican Orthodox Church. Brokaw recounts of Hammond as a Captain of the 376th AAA-AW Battalion which was attached to the 9th, generally

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protecting Divarty. Following is an excerpt of what is written of Hammond: (page 71), "He landed in Normandy a few days after D-Day, and that's when he began to see the horrors of war. He ran a platoon of antiaircraft guns to protect the artillery of the 9th Infantry Division, an outfit in the thick of some of the worst fighting; at one point the 9th had a casualty rate of 100 percent among its enlisted men; 150 percent among the officers. He (Hammond) was awarded five battle stars and a Bronze Star for meritorious service. 'I saw more bodies in a short time than most undertakers will see in a lifetime. Young men dead alongside the road. Every night I would pray for those guys and myself. I think it deepened my faith.'"

Coming from a long line of Episcopalians (including four brothers who were priests in that faith), Hammond followed a career in teaching, earning a PhD and teaching in public schools of California. After retirement in the 60's other disenchanting parishioners of the Episcopal faith he helped found the Anglican Orthodox Church and was ultimately ordained as a priest.

Glen Gronseth

Ed Note: The following is a reply to Mr. Donald Stibitz letter about contacting the Russians published in the Oct.-Nov.-Dec., 2010 issue.

Dear Mr. Stibitz,

I just read the Fall 2010 issue of the Octofoil, which included your account of attempting to meet up with the Russians. I think that you'll enjoy the following story written by my late father, Cole Gronseth, who then was CO of M Company. Looking at it just now, I see that he mentions an earlier scout patrol by a platoon from I Company. Maybe your platoon??

Written by Cole Gronseth in 1987: CO M Company

At one of the conferences (Yalta) held between the United States, Britain and Russia, a decision was made to use the northerly course of the Mulde River in Central Germany and the northerly course of the Elbe River from its junction with the Mulde as the north-south restraining line for forces coming from the east and the west. Our battalion had advanced to the area of Bittefeld, about 35 miles northeast of Halle. There are numerous little village settlements scattered throughout this area as is true throughout all of Europe.

I do not recall exactly, but one picture with Lt. Pembridge is noted as being Siebenhausen. This village is only one or two kilos from Raguhan. The bridge where we crossed the Mulde was at Raguhn. Both places were just a few kilos from Bittefeld. I believe that this was where M Company, of which I was then CO, was located.

I hope that within this coming year to have further access to WWII records and establish the date of our unit's arrival in this area. It seems to me that we had been at this position for several days before the first of several patrols were sent across the Mulde Rive. Some conversation come to mind where it was allowed the Regt. Com Col. Van Houton might get into serious trouble if he allowed patrols to move across any part of the restraining line.

One thing sure was that we could easily have advance a great distance eastward from this line before meeting the Russians. We'd also have had much cooperation from both German military and civilian personnel.

Many things are bought to mind upon reading Joe's account. [2010 Note by Glen: Dad is referring to a 1980's letter written by Joe Yourroski, another 9th Division man who was with him and spoke some Russian.]

It was an experience of both excitement and confusion to have M Co. selected to head the motorize patrol. It was natural though, as we had the jeeps, weapons and the men experience in their use. You will recall the ring mount on the jeep's dash for the 30 Cal. Machine guns. I do not recall why Pembridge's platoon was selected over any of the others. Since Joe had mentioned that I Co. had a foot patrol over the river before the engineers had put in the bridge at Raguhn, it may be that Del's platoon had been with I Co.

Anyway, I was at Bn Hdqs when the report came that the 9th Recon's M-8 vehicles were shot up. One of the patrol's men who were slightly wounded made this report. Also, Del Pembridge reported in. He

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was so excited for having somewhat "made" a crack German unit's CO, a colonel, surrender, that he was, as we say today, on a high. He also had acquired a jeep load of pistols.

(As an aside in this report, I smile as I recall Del telling that this German officer told Del in perfect English that he, Del, was in no position to demand the surrender of anything. The colonel then said that he would have his troops fall in so that he might bid them farewell. It was then that he turned to Del and asked where he wanted his unit to go.)

It was on the next morning that Del took the 2nd platoon's patrol out again. This would likely be the 26th of April. Something caused me to anticipate that this would be the day that a contact would be made with the Russians. I went to battalion hq's and sought out Major Russell Snelling. Russ had been M Co. CO before going to Bn. I pointed out to Russ that we would be missing a bit of history if we didn't go on a patrol to meet the Russians. In about two seconds he was ready and said, "Let's go." As best that I can recall we took Russ' jeep and driver. A very recent check with A.J. Moore in which I asked if he drove, gave the answer that he did not. I had maps of the area, of which two survive in my files. I recall that I suggested that we make a turn to the north shortly after crossing the bridge at Raguhn. This was to avoid the possibility of over-running our own patrol. Had this occurred, we would have pre-empted our own prescribed effort. In addition, this gave us the possibility of an intersection with the Russians first, as I thought that they would have headed in a more due west direction toward the confluence of the Elbe and Mulde rivers.

We went through several small settlements without incident when I suggested that we should turn to the east in an effort to contact our patrol. I'd assume that this was mid-afternoon. By chance we intercepted it in the dead center of a town which I believe was Grafenheinichen. According to my maps it was on highway #100 which joined highway #2, a roadway which crossed the Elbe and Wittenberg and went on to Berlin.

At that point, Russ, a Major, was the senior officer in command. I suggested that we go on with due caution. Our combined patrol moved north and east along route #100 until early evening, when we came to a break in the wooded growth on each side of the roadway. Before us lay flat open country. The roadway was somewhat elevated as though the fill was taken from what was now the ditch. Ahead on the roadway sat the 3 M-8's that had been hit the previous day.

A discussion ensued in which the consensus was to turn around. I objected, stating that we still had several hours of daylight and that it would still be possible to meet with the Russians. Up the road beyond the M-8's there was a small village to the left.

I said that I'd go up the ditch on the right of the roadbed where the turn was made to go into the village. #100 continued on past it. As I got to the M-8's, I could bore sight back through one of them to see where a tank had fired from the edge of the village. The tank was no longer there.

I proceeded along the ditch and crossed #100 to enter the village. This was an eerie experience. There was not a soul in sight. It seemed that even the dogs, cats and chickens were silent. I noted the burgermeister's house in passing the length of the town, and upon my turning around I stopped at the burgermeister's house and kicked in the door. A rush of about 30 people came out, and all seemed to be yelling "nicht scheissen" which as I remember was "don't shoot." Now all the doors seemed to pop open and the residents spilled out on the street, following me to where the street hit #100. I got them stopped with assurance that there would be no shooting. I could make out members of our patrol standing by our jeeps. I waved for them to come forward. Again the question came up of moving forward or returning. I think that Russ was as eager as I to contact the Rooski.

It was only a short way down #100 when we saw some figures on the road ahead of us on bicycles. They, too, had seen us and dismounted to push their bicycles cautiously toward us. It would seem that there was some magic moment when both parties realize that a common goal had been met—namely to reach members of the opposing allied forces which shared in this effort to defeat the German Wehrmacht and all that it stood for.

The bikes were tossed aside, these Russians joined us on our jeeps and we headed to Radis and on to Pratau.

Whoosh, the events there were some overwhelming. The four officers were separated to join their Russian counterparts in a simple buffet and drinking party. It did seem that our hosts got whatever they could from the locals. A large tray was brought in with eggs (das eir?) and some other preparation. Our hosts made the server take a bite from several parts of the tray in an effort to see if any part was poisoned. Such was not

(continued next column)

a thought of mine in all the time I'd shared food prepared by the Germans. The Russian's experience went beyond mine.

About midnight we were asked by our hosts to go to bed. This was not my choice and I told Joe to tell them that we were having too good of a time. A Russian who made me (@ 6'3"; 220 lbs) look quite small took me by the shoulder and showed me a place to sack out. Then about 2:00 a.m. we were awakened and told that a Colonel of the Regt was here to escort us over the river. I remember that Joe said that this was quite an honor and that it was done to assure us that it was safe if the CO would do this.

I remember that I told Joe if Jesus Christ came to tell us how to walk on water I'd refuse. Again this giant Russian came to where I had been sleeping. He took me by the shoulder and I was on my way to Wittenberg. I do not recall that any of the others were so directed. Somehow I got directly behind some one of the Russian staff. No doubt he was there to assure each of us a safe crossing. Then we realized that during the early nighttime they had constructed a wooden catwalk on the remnants of the bridge. It was more than quite dark. With all that we had had to drink, the crossing was made more of a wonder.

On the other side from Pratau in Wittenberg, we were ushered into the upstairs of a restaurant. Here quite a spread of food was laid out. Immediately they wanted us to begin another round of toasts. We needed more to drink like a hole in the head. One personality stood out from among the Russians. He was, as Joe told me, like a PR (public relations) man. What attracted the two of us was the fact that he knew about as much German as I. He had been in on part of the fun earlier in the evening and so that level of drinking between us was about even.

This enthusiastic PR man would constantly raise a glass and declare, "soldaten getrinken," or roughly a soldiers drink. This meant to down whatever contents one had in this glass. They cared little about preserving the identity of the fluids. A half empty glass of wine would quickly be filled with whatever was at hand. My solution was to hold the glass high, say, "jawohl" (certainly) and then surreptitiously dump the contents on the floor and wave an empty glass. I was caught once and PR chided me that, "Amerikaniser soldaten nichts gut getrinker" (American soldier was not a good drinker). More about that comment later.

(continued next issue)

"TANKS FOR THE MEMORIES" 2011 Reunion in Irving, Texas June 9 - 11, 2011

The 741st Battalion and 746th Battalion Combined Reunion

Place: Park Inn Hotel (DFW South)
4600 W. Airport Freeway, Irving, Texas 75062
(Hotel provides free shuttle to and from airport; hotel is 1.8 miles from airport)

Price: \$79.00 (plus tax) per room, per night for standard king
\$89.00 (plus tax) per room, per night for two doubles
(Included in rate is full hot breakfast buffet)

Reservations: Toll free: 866-812-9553; Direct dial: 972-513-0800
When calling, identify yourself as 746th Tank Battalion and ask to speak to Tammy Levy. She wants to personally note our reservations go the 746th Tank Battalion block of rooms. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check-out time is 12:00 p.m.

The Park Inn is a very nice hotel which offers spacious oversized guest rooms equipped with working desks, refrigerators, micro-waves, coffee makers, irons and full-size ironing boards. All rooms provide complimentary high-speed Internet access. There is casual dining in their restaurant which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Our hospitality room will be available Thursday noon through Saturday evening. The hotel will allow us to bring snacks and beverages in the hospitality room. The 746th Tank Battalion business meeting will be held Saturday morning in the hospitality room.

Signed 746th Tank Battalion Association
3407 Westcliff Road South
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Officers and Board of Governors 2010-2011

Officers

Paul Schumacher, [REDACTED]

Martin Gross, 1st V.P.- [REDACTED]

George Brown, 2nd V.P.- [REDACTED]

Domenick Fiore, 3rd V.P.- [REDACTED]

William Robey, Secty-Treas- [REDACTED]

George Brown, Jdg. Adv.- [REDACTED]

Terms Expiring 2011

Joseph Maiale, [REDACTED]

Clarence Ray, [REDACTED]

Terms Expiring 2012

Ira Moser, [REDACTED]

Lawrence Kaufman, [REDACTED]

Albert Lipton, [REDACTED]

Charles Illsley, [REDACTED]

Terms Expiring 2013

Winston Campbell, [REDACTED]

Paul Schumacher, [REDACTED]

William Robey, [REDACTED]

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Russell Bellanca, [REDACTED]

Appointed Officials

Rev. Jeannie Higgins, Chaplain, [REDACTED]

William Sauers, Octofoil Editor, [REDACTED]

Henry G. "Red" Phillips, Association Historian, [REDACTED]

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Judge Advocate
George Brown

Appointed Officials



Chaplain
Rev. Jeannie Higgins



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
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SHERATION HOTEL-NEW ORLEANS
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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

Deposits of \$200.00 per person must be made by May 1, 2011. Final payment **MUST BE MADE BY JUNE 15, 2011**. Reservations made after June 15, 2011 will be subject to room availability. If final payment is not made by June 15, 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 the WWII museum on Wednesday night.

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

SINGLE
640.00

DOUBLE
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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.