

College of the Holy Cross

CrossWorks

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

10-1-2011

The Octofoil, October/November/December 2011

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil>



Part of the [Military and Veterans Studies Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, October/November/December 2011" (2011). *The Octofoil*. 385.

<https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil/385>

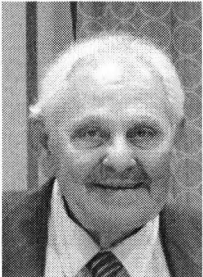
This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the 9th Infantry Division Association at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Octofoil by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.



The Octofoil

Oct.-Nov.-Dec.,
2011

Volume LXVI, No. 4



President
Joseph Maiale

President's Message

Once again it's time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. While I realize our association has lost several members over the past year we must take time to remember them and realize we are blessed to be able to do so. Stay healthy in this new year so you can come to our reunion in Pittsburgh in August.

I continue to push for a speedy transition of operations to the sons and daughters. Because of the losses noted above it is becoming increasing important for us to make this transition soon. If you have questions or thoughts about transferring the operations feel free to call me at 516-352-4527.

Joe Maiale, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Hürtgen Forest Museum Plaque Dedication Ceremony Vossenack, Germany October 7, 2011



L to r: Nancy Fraker, Gail Eisenhauer, Paul Schumacher, Lela Brigance, Mary Lovell
Photo by Paul Schumacher

Paul Schumacher represented The Ninth Infantry Division Association veterans at the recent plaque dedication ceremony in Vossenack, Germany. He was accompanied by Gail Eisenhauer of the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary who is also a member of the Memorials/Plaques Committee of the auxiliary. Also in attendance were Nancy Fraker, Lela Brigance, and Mary Lovell.

Gail Eisenhauer filed the following report: Leaving Brussels we headed east to stop at some of the American Military Cemeteries. We first stopped at Ardennes in Belgium and then on to Henri-Chapelle to visit so many of the 9th Infantry Division fellows who are resting at the beautiful cemetery and area. Most of them I believe were killed in the Hürtgen Forest. Also some who were repatriated home also rested there first. One grave in particular we visited was Robert G. Dutton of the 39th Infantry Regiment. Then on to the Netherlands and a visit to Margraten where we saw so many names on the wall of the missing from the 9th Infantry Division.

Heading for Simonskall, Germany we went through Zweifell, saw some dragons teeth (Seigfried Line) along the way, a small area of the Hürtgen Forest. Then down the hill by Jagerhaus, where a few of us stayed four nights in Simonskall, a village that I am sure has not changed since the war. As someone

said, she expected to see Heidi and grandpa coming down the hill.

The next two mornings we were greeted by our dear friend Manfred Klinkenburg who showed us the area and was our guide. Included in our tour was the Hürtgen Forest Museum where the 9th Infantry Division plaque will be placed.

Friday afternoon we met with Paul Schumacher and his traveling friend for a wonderful dinner at the Hotel Talschenke. After leaving there we went to a hall in Vossenack where we first met Colonel Hoepfner and many German active and reserve soldiers. There were also several reenactors from Belgium.

Friday evening was the beginning ceremony of the Hürtgen Forest March. Our plaque was dedicated at this ceremony. The weekend was organized by the German Army. Most of the Germans march about a mile to the church in Vossenack where our ceremony was held. The ceremony took place outside the church at 8:00 p.m., we got to feel the weather that the veterans endured, it was cold, windy and rainy; it made it even more special to be there. All around the church yard where we were standing or sitting were flaming torches. We were there early enough to watch the Army marching in, what a sight that was.

Nancy Fraker gave a speech on behalf of the sons and daughters. The plaque was handed to Manfred Klinkenburg, Museum Director, where it will be placed inside the museum. Nancy is the niece of SSGT Raymond C. Blanton from the 60th Infantry Regiment, who is still missing in action along with three of his buddies.

After the ceremony we all went back to the hall to warm up and visit again with our hosts. One of the fellows at the museum had written a booklet about the monuments in the Hürtgenwald, we were each given a signed copy by him. We were also given a cross made from found shrapnel. (continued on page 3)



Inside this issue:

70th Wedding Anniversary	2
Taps Sounded	4
Chapter/Auxiliary News	6
Friends of Fr. Connors Fund	8
Fighting Blind In Hürtgen Forest	9
Veterans Day Address	12
Mail Call	13

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 OCTOFOIL

The official publication of The Ninth Infantry Division Association. Published four times yearly, January - March; April - June; July - September; October - December. Material for publication must be received by the publisher according to the following schedule:

December 20 for the January publication
March 20 for the April publication
June 20 for the July publication
September 20 for the October publication

One year subscription fee is twenty dollars (\$20.00) and must be sent to the publisher by check or money order made payable to:

The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

Send payment to: Publisher, The Octofoil
2960 West 234th Street
Torrance, CA 90505-4104

Volume LXVI, Number 4 October - December, 2011

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.

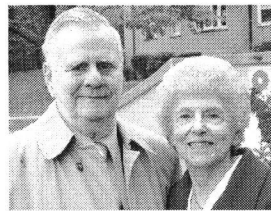
New Ninety's Club Members



Harry E. Mansfield (90)
Taylors, S.C.

Seventieth Wedding Anniversary

December 27, 2011, Worcester, Massachusetts
Henry and Theresa Shimkowski of Worcester, Massachusetts recently celebrated their seventieth wedding anniversary.



Henry and Theresa Shimkowski

Henry was assigned to Battery B, 60th Field Artillery Battalion of the 9th Infantry Division during World War II. Henry is also a member of The Ninety's Club of The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

The following article appeared in the November 4th edition of the Catholic Free Press. Written by Tanya Connor and reprinted by permission from the Catholic Free Press:

What makes a good marriage?
When asked that this week, Henry Shimkowski got right to the point: "Get a good wife."
He got right to the second point too: His wife Theresa Shimkowski, is a good cook.
When she teased him for his focus on his stomach, he defended himself: "She kept me alive."
Said Mrs. Shimkowski, "I spoiled him."
Her recipe for a good marriage?
"Just be good to each other."
Whatever they've done seems to have worked. Hailing from

St. Stephen Parish in Worcester, they were the longest-married couple at the annual diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass Sunday at St. Paul Cathedral, according to Allison LeDoux, director of the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family. She called out the number of years couples in the congregation had been married, beginning with 18 years. When she got to 70, the Shimkowskis' rose.

Raymond and Irene Alukas, also of St. Stephen's, also celebrating their 70th anniversary this year, were scheduled to be there too, but did not make it, Mrs. LeDoux said. (She said it appeared that was the case with half the couples scheduled to be honored at the Mass, which was held despite a snow storm that left thousands without power.)

Bishop McManus praised all the couples for the witness of their fidelity, which he said society desperately needs, when 50 percent of marriages end in divorce. "You take each other for better or for worse," something dismissed as hopelessly out of fashion in today's society, he said. "So in the name of the Church, I thank you for your life together."

"This last anniversary Mass was like getting married all over again," Mr. Shimkowski said later. Other years he and his wife attended alone, but this year nearly their whole family came, he said. He and other family members named the states 61 relatives came from for the occasion: California, Texas, Nevada, Arizona, Virginia, Maryland, and, of course, Massachusetts.

His wife explained that they also had a party at the Worcester home of their niece Sharon Beaudet and her husband, Thomas, planned by their daughter, Elaine Noe, and her husband James from Virginia. "I think that the whole thing is about celebrating these guys," said Erin Piwowarski, who came in from Dallas with her daughters, Teresa and Emma Slettebo. "It's a privilege to be their granddaughter."

Why?
"They're just so good to us," she replied. "Our whole lives we've known we're the most important thing to them. And Grandma makes really good meatballs too."

"I love them," Teresa, 11, said of her great-grandparents, proceeding to hug them.

Mrs. Shimkowski said she loves her grandchildren.

"You can tell by all the pictures," said Teresa, referring to displays hanging on the wall or sitting on a flat surface in the Shimkowski's home.

(continued on page 3)

(Shimkowski...continued from page 2)

Mr. Shimkowski too said he is so blessed by his two children, 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren (make that 19; two great-grandchildren are due in the coming months).

"I felt like a big shot over there," he said of the party.

Well, isn't he?

"I am a big shot," agreed the man who turns 94 in November.

(His wife is 89). "I want to catch up with grandfather. My grandfather was 100."

Asked for his comment, the Shimkowskis' son, Dennis Shimkowski, of Auburn, asked a question of his own, "Where would I begin?" Visiting his parents with his wife, Colleen Shimkowski, he said he has many grandchildren, but no great-grandchildren yet.

"Thanks to these two people, there's a good start," he said of his parents.

His parents said they married Dec. 27, 1941 at St. Anne Parish in Shrewsbury.

"I was in the service," Mr. Shimkowski said. "I was lucky to get married. We were ready to go overseas when I got married. I wanted to get married before that, but I couldn't get a leave from the post."

"The priest said when he got his leave, he would marry us," Mrs. Shimkowski said.

She admitted it was hard; she was a few months pregnant by the time her husband left Fort Bragg in North Carolina for what is now the Kingdom of Morocco in North Africa. Some months later, he learned - via letter - that he had a daughter.

But they persevered - for 70 more years. To what do they attribute their long marriage?

"Longevity, I guess," said Mr. Shimkowski.

"I took good care of you," his wife informed him.

Did he take good care of her too?

"Well I tried," responded the tease. "I didn't get in her way when she washed the floors." He also sang to her each morning the couple said.

What advice would they give couples getting married today?

"A lot of them don't get married today," responded Mr. Shimkowski. "They just don't go to church; that's the whole problem." He admitted he and his wife don't get there often anymore (he no longer drives), but they watch Mass on television and sometimes a priest comes to the house.

How does their faith affect their marriage?

"It makes your marriage stronger, I think," Mr. Shimkowski said.

"We know we have our Creator and we know we have a place to go to after it's over." He said his wife keeps a candle lit and always says the rosary.

Mrs. Shimkowski said she doesn't feel right if she doesn't light her candle. And, if she doesn't finish her rosary before bed, she takes it with her.

"When I wake up my finger is still on that bead," she said.

"My mother use to go to church every day," Mr. Shimkowski said. "She set the example for me."

Again offering his views of marriage he said, "Love is the whole thing, if there's no love, there's no marriage."

(Plaque Dedication Ceremony...continued from page 1)

So many people wanted to speak with Mr. Schumacher; someone said he was like a rock star. All I could think of was Dr. Gross talking about his time visiting Normandy. It was so amazing to see the gratitude they had for our veteran. I was told by one German woman it was so nice to see we are friends with our past enemies. That was quite an evening.

Again the next morning we all met at the hall and back to the field where there was an encampment. Mr. Schumacher was interviewed by the Mayor and his staff who work for the PR section of the German Army. That afternoon we all went up to Overloon, in the Netherlands to the dedication of an American tank for the 7th Armored Division. We were invited to that by another 9th Infantry Division friend, Hans Van Toer. Hans then took us to a memorial outside of Overloon that the town had erected for the 27th Armored Division soldiers who had been found there a few years ago.

That evening we all gathered in Simonskall for our last dinner together. It was a quick but memorable few days which I was so glad we were able to do to honor our veterans who fought there and especially for the ones who didn't return home.

The following is a quote from a letter by Paul Schumacher:

"At Vossenack, Germany on 7 October 2011, the 9th Infantry Association presented a commemorative plaque to the Museum of the Huertgen Forest. It was a great honor as a veteran to represent the Association at this impressive dedication ceremony. This plaque offers a permanent reminder and way of honoring all the sacrifices of the 9th Infantry Division in the Huertgen Forest 1944-1945. Finally, something good happened to me in the Huertgen Forest."

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:
9th Infantry Division Association

Send to: William G. Robey, Secretary-Treasurer

Harry E. Mansfield sustaining General Fund donation

David Roach in memory of his father Martin J. Roach

Daniel Wengryn in memory of his father Michael Wengryn

Secretary-Treasurer Report

Once again we have survived another year. There is not much to report at this time, and we are preparing for the 67th reunion to be held in Pittsburgh, Pa., August 17 - 19, 2012. Our basic schedule is about the same as in previous years. Details will be furnished as they become available for publication.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday and are well into celebrating the new year.

The CGM Fund is still a problem. These people seem to be stalling for some reason, and if they can get their act together, I think the problem can be settled in a few days. For some reason they do not seem to be able to issue our stock certificates to replace the ones that were either lost or that we never had. One of our accounts with them was established in October 1953, and the other one in October 1964. John Clouser was President in 1964, and I talked to him about this problem. He told me that he had never seen any kind of stock certificate and he knew nothing about them. It must be these accounts were established by Tom Boyle when he was Treasurer of the association. Tom died several years ago and I have not been able to find any of his children to ask them if they know of any of his financial records that I could get. I think he had a daughter named Donna Boyle, and if she married, I do not know her married name. If any of you know of her or how to get in touch with her, please let me know as soon as possible. In the meantime, if the CGM Fund does not issue our certificates in the next few days, I am going to turn the whole record over to the Attorney General of Massachusetts and see if legal pressure on the CGM Fund will help in any way.

See you at the reunion.
Bill Robey, Secty-Treas

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

Wyett H. Colclasure Sr. 60th Inf. Regt.	MG Richard M. Lee
Jack F. Jewel B Co., 39th Inf. Regt.	Miles F. McFarland L Co., 39th Inf. Regt.
Loren C. Hunt C Btry., 60th F.A. Bn.	Charles Van Der Poel I Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

TAPS LETTERS

Wyett H. Colclasure II

My father, Captain Wyett H. Colclasure, died November 23, 2011, at age 99 years and 15 days. After he joined the 9th Infantry Division he married my mother, who was an Army Nurse when they met at Ft. Benning, GA. They were married in McMahan Chapel on December 14, the next Sunday after Pearl Harbor. I came along in September and Dad deployed the next month, then waded ashore with the 60th Regiment at Port Lyautey on his 30th birthday on November 8, 1942. He was wounded on April 8, 1943. He was later assigned as a company commander in the Individual Replacement Training Center at Ft. McClellan, AL before being separated medically April 9, 1945.

I was privileged to have met or heard stories about many of his comrades especially Charles T. Fort and Edwin Lusk. While in college I worked for Colonel Fort when he was general secretary of the YMCA in Winston Salem, NC, and his daughter Dottie and I have maintained a close friendship through the years. Ed Lusk and my Dad were wounded in the same foxhole with the same shell. Dad was hit harder and Ed was the one who saved his life, though he didn't know that for many years. Dad made several visits to the Lusk home in Indian Springs, AL after they reestablished contact.

I was very privileged to attend the 50th reunion in Ft. Bragg with Dad while I was still on active duty, and the 2010 reunion in Indianapolis. Herewith are my generous thanks to Bill Robey for his urging, both gentle and pointed, to convince Dad to make that trip and be recognized as the oldest member among the 90s club. In the years before I had gone with him to visit Solomon's Island where he had taken amphibious training, and to visit Pearl Harbor in 2008 so he could see "where it all started."

Some of my own career followed Dad's. I also deployed with the 9th ID on board ship, this time to Viet Nam. When I returned I cut off some of his shoulder patches and wore them as my combat patch for the rest of my career - a proud legacy for me.

His survivors include my sister and me, a brother and sister, six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sisters and his wife of 61 years, Nila (Powell).

(continued next column)

We will miss him but are encouraged and strengthened by his example as a Christian, patriot, husband, father, and friend to many.

Sincerely, Wyett H. Colclasure II

Majorie G. Hunt

I am writing to inform you that my husband, Loren C. Hunt passed away on Dec. 11, 2010 in Springfield, IL. He was 92 years old and a member of your Ninety's Club. He enlisted in the Army on Sept. 24, 1940. He was serving with the 60th Field Artillery, C Battery, 9th Infantry Division.

He was with the D-Day Invasion of Africa, Sicily and Normandy at Utah Beach and Cherbourg. He received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and several other medals. He was wounded in action in Germany. He engaged in eight offensives.

Loren attended 10 9th Infantry reunions and was glad to personally meet Matt Urban.

Signed, Marjorie Hunt

TAPS OBITUARIES



Wyett Harrison Colclasure 1912 - 2011 60th Infantry Regiment

Wyett Harrison Colclasure, 99, of Salem and formerly of Kinmundy, died at 9:34 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23, at Centralia Manor. He was born in Clay County on November 8, 1912, the son of Guy Harrison Colclasure and Gracie (Graham) Colclasure. On December 14, 1941, he married Nila (Powell) Colclasure at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

He was a captain in the U.S. Army during WW II, and a retired rural mail carrier. While serving in the military, he was an Assistant Regimental S-3, Battalion Executive Officer, Company Commander and Assistant IRTC S-3. He was authorized the Purple Heart, EAME Campaign Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, on Beachhead Arrow, the American Defense Medal and Combat Infantry Badge. He was a member of the First Christian Church, Kinmundy American Legion and Disabled American Veterans.

Jack F. Jewell 1919 - 2011

B Company, 39th Infantry Regiment

Jack F. Jewell died Wednesday, November 2, 2011, at Midland Hospice House in Topeka.

He was born October 5, 1919, in Ottawa, the son of Heman E. and Norma Kathrens Jewell.

He received B.A and B.S. degrees from Kansas University and graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

He retired with the rank of colonel from the U.S. Army in 1972 after 31 years of service. During World War II, he was a member of the 9th Infantry Division and participated in the Hurtgen Forest campaign and the Battle of the Bulge. He also crossed the Remagen Bridge, on the Rhine River, shortly before it collapsed.

He later served during the Korean War, from 1950 to 1951. Other duty stations included Japan and West Germany.

His military awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Belgium Fourragere, and other awards and commendations.

After retiring from the Army, he worked as a civilian in Taif, Saudi Arabia, as a school adviser for three years and then worked for Saudi Arabian Airlines in Kansas City as a cross-cultural coordinator and recruiter for seven years.

He was a member of the Acacia Masonic Lodge No. 9 and was a Mason for more than 62 years. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies for more than 62 years. He was a lifetime member of both the American Legion and the VFW.

He married Marion Jane Palmer on May 25, 1946, in Dallas, Texas. She survives of the home.

Major General Richard M. Lee 1917 - 2011

Major General Richard M. Lee, 94, who commanded the Old Guard, the oldest Infantry Regiment in the U.S. Army, at Fort Myer, Virginia, from 1960 to 1962, died November 24, 2011, at his residence in Washington, D.C. of congestive heart failure.

Born in 1917 in Moscow, Idaho to Judge William E. Lee and Madeline Shields Lee, MG Lee moved to Washington, D.C. in 1929. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1940 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in pre-law. Upon graduation he entered Harvard Law School. After a year and a half in law school, World War II began, and he was ordered to duty in the Army as a second lieutenant of Infantry.

(continued next column)

His World War II service included assignments with the 9th and 89th Infantry Divisions. After the war he served with the 83rd Infantry Division and Headquarters of U.S. Forces in Austria.

After his return to the United States in 1948, Gen. Lee was assigned as the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment. In September 1949, MG Lee entered the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He graduated in 1951 with a Master's degree in Public Affairs.

Following a tour on the Army General Staff from 1951 to 1954, he was assigned as Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment in Japan. In July 1955, he was named aide-de-camp to Gen. Lyman Limnitzer, Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Forces in the Far East. Completing that assignment in 1957, he returned to the United States to attend the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation from the War College, he served in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army until 1960, when he was selected to serve as the fiftieth commander of the First Battle Group, 3rd Infantry Regiment. (The Old Guard).

In 1962, MG Lee was assigned as the Operations and Planning Officer of the U.S. Corps (Group) in the Republic of Korea. In 1964, he was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army, this time as Deputy Secretary of the General Staff for Action Control.

In 1966, he was assigned as Deputy Senior Military Advisor to the Commanding General, Republic of Vietnam II Corps. Completing that assignment in July 1967, Gen. Lee returned to Washington, where he served as Director of Plans and Programs for Military Assistance in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. In January 1971, he returned to the Far East as Chief of Staff, U.S. Forces in Japan. In June 1972, MG Lee became the eighth Army Officer to serve as Deputy Commandant of the National War College. He retired from the Army on September 1, 1974.

After retiring from the Army, MG Lee joined the American Enterprise Institute. He authored two books about the Civil War, "Mr. Lincoln's Club," and "General Lee's City." He was a member of the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., a Founding Member of the National Museum of the U.S. Army, and a member of the American Legion.

Miles F. McFarland 1923 - 2011

L Company, 39th Infantry Regiment

Miles F. McFarland, age 88, of Hilliard, passed away Monday, October 17, 2011 at his home. He was born May 16, 1923 in Piqua, Ohio to the late Miles F. Sr. and Eustacia (Mercer) McFarland. Miles was a West High School graduate in the Class of 1942. He served as a staff sergeant in the US Army in the 9th Division where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a participant of Ohio Honor Flight and for several years he spoke of his war experiences at various local high schools. He also made a CD of his experiences with 9th Division.

Miles graduated from the College of Pharmacy at the Ohio State University in 1948. He was a member of the OSU College of Pharmacy Alumni Association. He was also a member of TBDITL Scholarship Fund. He had his own pharmacy for a period of time and was associated with Wendt Bristol and McKinley Drug Stores. He became an independent contractor for the state of Ohio where he was on the review board. He retired from that position in 2007.

CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

A lively group from the Michigan Chapter gathered on October 1, 2011 at the Spartan Hall of Fame Café in East Lansing. Twenty persons attended, including six veterans. During the social hour which included fun, laughter, reminiscing, and military sharing, pictures were shared from the New Orleans' 66th Ninth Infantry Division Association national reunion. Of particular interest were the photos from the NOLA WWII Museum where one of the evening banquets had taken place.

The business meeting was called to order by President Tom Hatton, who thanked everyone for attending, then called for a moment of silence to honor the departed. Tom also shared why other members could not attend. He introduced Gustav J. (Gus) Heise of the 60th Infantry and asked him to share his experiences during the war.

Other meeting highlights included a full financial report by Treasurer Lynn Bowers and the announcement of the 2012 national reunion to be held in Pittsburgh on August 17, 18, and 19. Tom Hatton announced a reminder from William (Bill) Robey, national Secretary-Treasurer, for those who need to send in their

\$20.00 to receive *The Octofoil* newsletter to do so now. Everyone was told to consult the last issue for specific dues information. Other motions were completed to improve the chapter.

The Michigan Chapter officers are: Tom Hatton, President; Harold (Hal) Ladouceur, Vice-President; Lynn Bowers, Treasurer; and Margaret Wisniewski, Secretary.



L to r: Gus Heise, Don and Bobbi Sedestrom, Carol (Hatton) Greenough, Tom Hatton, Marilyn Martin, Blanche Lucia, Erik and Kaye Olson, Lucille and Hal Ladouceur.

Photo by Lynn Bowers

Persons attending the chapter meeting were: Tom Hatton, Hal and Lucille Ladouceur, Lynn and Stella Bowers, Don and Bobbi Sedestrom, Clyde and Ann LaBrenz, Gus Heise, Carol Hatton Greenough, Mary Doering, Pauline Slezak, Susan Andrews, Susan Beauvais, Becky Emmerich, Marilyn Martin, Blanche Lucia, and Erik and Kaye Olson.

In Michigan, the chapter meetings occur in May and October and are looked forward to with great anticipation. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the October 1 meeting and

expect to attend next time. A motion passed that the next meeting be confirmed for 12:00 noon on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at the same location (Spartan Hall of Fame Café) in East Lansing. It was mentioned that May 19 is Armed Forces Day which appealed to all.

Kaye Olson, Recording Secretary



L to r: Becky Emmerich, Susan Beauvais, Mary Doering, Stella and Lynn Bowers, Ann and Clyde LaBrenz, Pauline Slezak, Susan Andrews.

Photo by Kaye Olson

FLORIDA CHAPTER

2012 Fla. Chapter Update:

Because our reunion will be for two days instead of three, the reunion committee decided to go out to dinner the first night instead of the usual pizza party. This change will allow the group to relax and socialize after a lengthy drive getting to the Silver Springs Days Inn. There's a Denny's restaurant right on the property...an easy walk to the restaurant where we will have dinner on May 23. The Hospitality Room will be set up with light snacks and drinks. On day 2 we will go back to Denny's for breakfast. Use the printed tickets for both meals at Denny's. Cost of both meals will be included in the packaged price. Following breakfast, we will hold our business meeting in the Hospitality Room. If you have any old or new business to discuss, please bring it up at the meeting. After the end of the business meeting there will be free time for those wishing to explore the surrounding area. For dinner, we will go to an area large restaurant and then to the Ocala Civic Theater to see "Fidler on the Roof." As this is a popular show, we must have a count well in advance to purchase tickets so please let us know immediately after you receive your order form and we receive your check. Order forms will be sent out on or about April 15th. We look forward to having another successful and enjoyable reunion. The 9th Division Web Site: Those of you who have and are computer literate, enter www.octofoil.org and it should bring up the main page of the site. Across the top of the page you will see several different sections. Scroll over to the one that says "Documents & Records." Click on it and it will take you to the next page where you will see a listing of 3 items. Scroll and select the one that says "Octofoil Library Project." That will take you to the next page where you will see a section called "Newsletters, Newspapers, and Magazines." It has 14 files while the other section named "Books" has 16 sections. You will be amazed at what you will find.

Material Sent to Library Project: While fighting through Africa, Sicily, England, France, Belgium and Germany, Emil De Donato purchased, liberated or exchanged candy for post cards of the different towns, cities such as Safi, Mazagan, Blida, Sidi Bel Abbes and Bizerte in Africa, Cefalu and Palermo in Sicily, as well as others in England and Germany for a total of 49 post cards. He had them put on a disc and sent it to William Sauers. Included on the disc are coins and paper money from the different countries. A Fayetteville newspaper devoted to the first anniversary of the 9th Infantry at Ft. Bragg and other material was sent separately. Eventually this material can be seen on the www.octofoil.org website.

Chuck Van Der Poel Dies: Word received from Lila Stansell stating that past president of the Florida Chapter, Charles Van Der Poel died on Saturday, December 3, 2011. A follow up phone call to his son, Howard Van Der Poel, revealed that Chuck suffered a fall which caused a severe injury to his head. Surgery was performed but the damage was too great. His wife Dolores remains as a patient in a Jacksonville nursing home. Charles Van Der Poel served in Co. I, 60th Infantry Regiment. Condolences may be sent addressed to his son Howard Van Der Poel, [REDACTED]

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Joyce Munger continues to receive home care since her return from the hospital. Her husband Charles stated that she is bed ridden, however she can get around in her wheelchair. Charles and Joyce have been married for over 70 years. Please say a prayer for her recovery.

(continued on page 7)



Emil De Donato

(Florida Chapter...continued from page 6)

Paul Crumb has a problem with his throat. His wife, Eunice, stated that he will be having treatments. Our prayers go out to Paul and Eunice for his complete recovery. Paul served with Co. K, 47th Infantry Regiment.

Our newly elected President Joe King sent an email stating that his wife, Pat, is now in a nursing home. He tried taking care of her at home with the help of home care nurses but the work was too difficult. She is in much better care at the nursing home. Lila Stansell phoned saying that she and H.F. are feeling much better and will make every effort to attend our Silver Springs reunion.

News Wanted: Please send news to Emil De Donato, 3650 S W Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431. Phone 352-489-4070, email: mrdee82918@aol.com



Marv Levy

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

The New York Chapter met at 1:00 p.m. on December 16, 2011 at the Lantern Restaurant in West Hempstead, L.I., N.Y., for its annual holiday party.

Fourteen Ninth men and ladies attended. Their names appear beneath the enclosed photo. Everyone enjoyed catching up with personal news and savored the variety of repast served by attentive waiters. Some of our local

chapter members could not attend due their disabling conditions: Genevieve Zenka and Al Lipton, Chapter President Ed Harris, and Ed Mullen. Arno and Ruth Heller were on a wedding anniversary cruise.



L to r: Mary Moriarity (Joe Killen friend), Anton & Charlotte Dietrich, Betty (daughter) Joe Charvat, Michelle (daughter) Viola & Tony Varone, Al Zenka, Joe Killen, Sadie (partial) & Joe Maiale, Barbara & Marv Levy.

Photo by Barbara & Marv Levy

Barbara Levy gave each attending member a memento of a miniature Nutcracker soldier Christmas tree ornament..

New 2012 chapter officers were noted:

President Joe Killen, 1st VP Joe Charvat, 2nd VP Arno Heller.

Around 4:00 p.m. we wished all a happy holiday season and headed home.

Our next official meeting will be on Friday, March 25, 2012, 1:00 p.m., at the Franklin Square Memorial Library, Franklin Square, Long Island, New York

Marv Levy, Recording Secretary
85 S. Centre Ave. Apt. A16
Rockville Centre, NY 11570-5761
Tel/Fax: 516-766-0869

LADIES CORNER

Next year's annual meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary will be in August in Pittsburgh. President Roz Gross made inquiries to the hotel on costs for a Ladies luncheon. However, just as last year in New Orleans when we did not hold a formal luncheon, costs in Pittsburgh are also too high to consider lunch. There is a possibility to have coffee and dessert at the meeting for approximately \$20.00 per person. If any member has an opinion, please contact



Rosalyn Gross
President

Roz at the email or phone number below.

Donation: Judy Goldsmith, Treasurer, sent a donation check for \$300.00 to the WWII Museum in New Orleans as per the motion passed at the last meeting. Our donation was designated to the museum's "Ten for Them" campaign whose goal is to keep admission to the museum free for WWII veterans.

Raffle: Jeanette Taylor and Glenda Baswell volunteered to organize a Ladies Auxiliary raffle, our major fundraiser, for next year's meeting in Pittsburgh. It was suggested at the last annual meeting that each member of the Ladies Auxiliary be responsible for supplying one raffle item. The next issue of *The Octofoil* will contain raffle details.

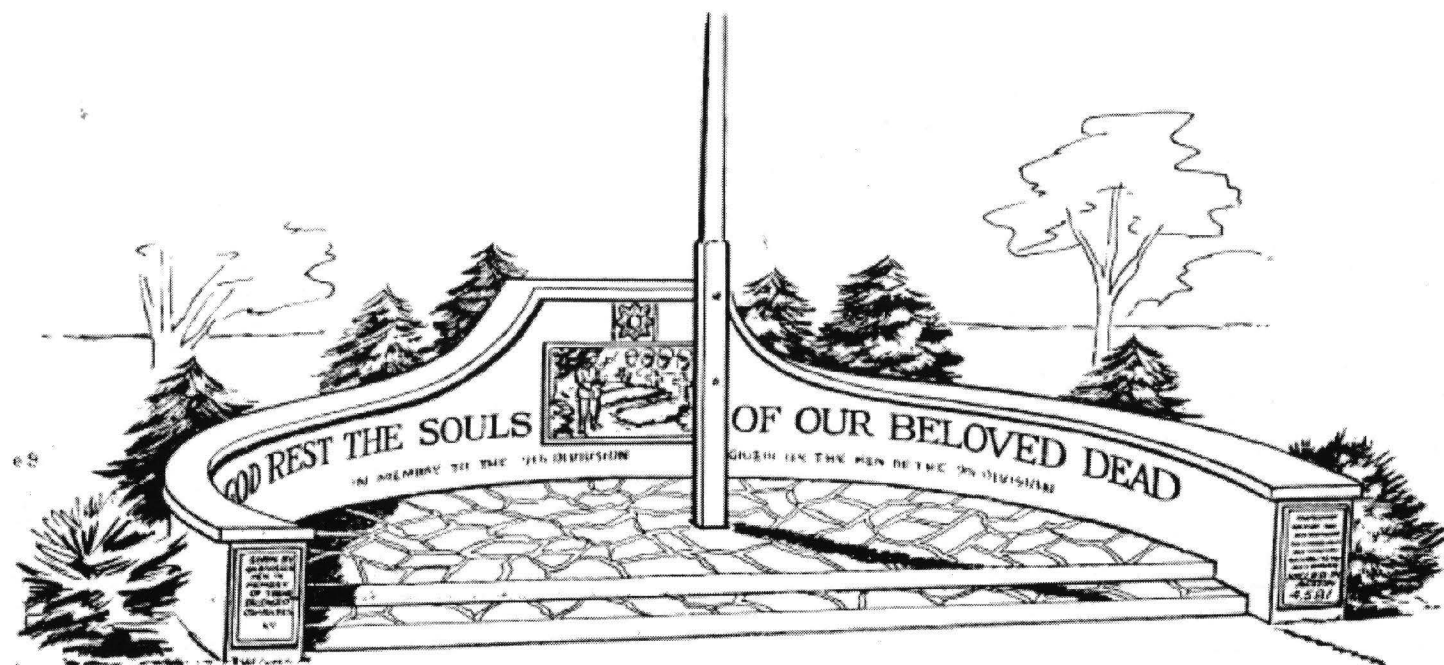
Annual dues: \$5.00 per year. If you have not paid your annual dues, please send a \$5.00 check to our Treasurer:

Judy Goldsmith

Wishing all our members a happy and healthy New Year! See you all in Pittsburgh.

Roz Gross, President

**Friends of Father Connors Fund
for
The Ninth Infantry Division Association Memorial**



"Above is an artist's sketch of the Memorial that will be dedicated on the grounds of the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester on Nov. 11, 1962. The diameter is 30 feet. On the front of the two ends are two bronze plaques. On one side, these words: Given by Ninth Division men in memory of their Deceased Comrades." On the other end, in bronze letters, the names of the Ninth's Eight Campaigns. Underneath, "Killed in action - 4,581." The platform, steps and approaching walk will be of flagstone. The plaque at the rear, 3 feet by 4 feet, in mosaic, by an artist, Franz Steiner, an Immaculate Conception parishioner, who designed the Memorial for Father Connors - will be depicted a Chaplain (could be Protestant, Jew or Catholic), saying prayers over the grave of a soldier - and in the background heads of living soldiers. Over the plaque is the Division insignia - an Octofoil in color. This is really the fulfillment of a great dream that has been visualized by Father Connors for many years."

The Octofoil, Volume XVI, Number 2, November - December 1962



Memorial under construction-1962

At the reunion in July 2011, held in New Orleans, the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary established a rehabilitation fund for the memorial with a donation of \$500. The fund will be known as the "Friends of Father Connors Fund." Weather and time have taken their toll on the memorial over the years. The last effort to rehabilitate the memorial was in the early 1980s. Throughout the following years the parishioners of Immaculate Conception and the maintenance staff of the church have done minor repairs and cleaning to keep our memorial presentable. We are indebted to them for their care. It is now time for some major restoration work so our memorial will last another 50 years.

A cursory inspection this past October revealed several issues that need to be addressed soon. In several places the mortar joints between the bricks are cracked. Several flagstones in platform and steps have their mortar joints completely broken and therefore are loose and dangerous to walk on. The bronze plaques on each end are tarnished and the mounting on one has come loose. The bronze lettering is also tarnished and some letters are loose from their mounting in the mortar joints. The mosaic depicting the Chaplain needs a good cleaning to restore its luster. These are just a few examples of the work needed to bring our memorial back to its original beauty. Work is currently underway to contact general contractors in the Worcester area to evaluate and recommend the necessary repairs and provide an estimate of the costs.

If you would like to contribute please send your donation to William Sauers, Memorial Rehabilitation Chair, 2960 W. 234th St., Torrance, CA 90505. Make checks payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association** and note in the memo section "Friends of Father Connors Fund." All donors will be recognized for their generosity and commitment to this project.

Father Walter Riley, pastor of Immaculate Conception, is co-chair of the rehabilitation committee. He is also our champion with the parishioners, the diocese, and the Worcester community.

Our first individual donor was Joseph Bergin from New London, New Hampshire. Joe served in F Company, 47th Infantry Regiment and said that he attended several of the annual memorial services hosted by Father Connors over the years. Thank you Joe.

A 50th anniversary rededication ceremony is being planned for November 11, 2012. There is a lot of work to be done to restore this beautiful memorial envisioned by Father Edward T. Connors. Father Connors started the annual memorial Mass in November 1945 at St. Peter's Church in Worcester. He was assigned pastor at Immaculate Conception from April 30, 1952 to June 21, 1980 when he retired. He passed away January 28, 1986 and is buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Whitinsville, Massachusetts.

Photo by Gail Eisenhower



"Lest We Forget"

67th Annual Memorial Mass

October 23, 2011

Immaculate Conception Parish, Worcester, Massachusetts



L to r: John Delmore (brother of Tom Delmore/34th Field Artillery Battalion), members of Scout Troop 54 who provided color guard duty, John Judge (behind the wreath, 101st Airborne Division), Fr. Riley and at the far right Henry Shimkowski, 60th Field Artillery Battalion.

and the Knights of Columbus. Fr. Riley, Susan Steiner, William Sauers, Phil Bosko, and Sandra Bosko held preliminary discussions regarding the restoration of the memorial, planning a 50th anniversary rededication ceremony, and combining our rededication with the City of Worcester annual Veterans Day parade. By then it was time for lunch. Gail Eisenhower made reservations at a local restaurant and all the sons and daughters met there to enjoy another round of eating and socializing.

On Tuesday, October 25, 2011, William Sauers and Phil Bosko met with the city manager of Worcester and the director of Veterans Services for the City of Worcester. After explaining our plan for restoration and a 50th anniversary rededication ceremony we wondered if the city would be interested in combining our events. Both the city manager and the director of veterans services enthusiastically supported the idea. In short, we are off to a grand start for making Sunday, November 11, 2012 a special day for The Ninth Infantry Division Association, Immaculate Conception parish, and the City of Worcester.



Front row l to r: Sandra Ann Bosko, Karen Olsen, Alexandria Bosko, Gail Eisenhower, Phyllis Vivolo, Clare Irwin
Back row: Philip Bosko

Not pictured Mary Lovell, Rosemary Cosgrove, Rick Merrill, and William Sauers

FIGHTING BLIND IN HÜRTGEN FOREST

By Edward G. Miller

Reproduced by permission from *America In WW II*, September-October 2011

Article supplied by Ronald MacArthur Hirst, Wiesbaden, Germany

The Americans marching across Germany's western border in the fall of 1944 might have guessed on sight that the dense forest before them could quickly turn into a patch of hell. All that was needed was fire and suffering. They would come.

"My recollection—of one of my men who died from an artillery shell that tore off the top of his head or of another man who died when a large chunk of red-hot shrapnel created a hole the size of my fist..." wrote infantry lieutenant William L Devitt, recalling the horrors he encountered when his unit entered the northern reaches of the thick, hilly Hürtgen Forest east of Aachen, Germany. It was some of the hardest close combat the US Army experienced in the entire war. The view from the other side of the battle line was similar. A German non-commissioned officer described one firefight as "hand-to-hand combat, tanks burning..., loud noise of duels between men armed with Panzerfausts and tanks..., burning and exploding tanks, men falling everywhere..."

The American memory of World War II places the intense and brutal fighting in the Hürtgen Forest well behind the infamous combat on Omaha Beach on D-Day and in the Battle of the Bulge. Yet both German and American veterans of multiple fights in the 1944-1945 European campaign consistently recall the forest fighting as the worst they ever experienced.

GIs entered the 10-mile-wide, 20-mile-long forest in mid-September 1944 after pursuing German forces across north-west Europe. Geography, politics, and strategy had put the US First Army on a collision course with a remarkably resilient enemy that was working desperately to shore up its defenses. As clear summer skies gave way to overcast, rainy autumn, the Americans persisted in attacking directly into some of the worst terrain and strongest defenses in all the Rhineland. It was an offensive that stripped away every US advantage in artillery, armor, and air support.

Such reckless tactics might have been excusable had the objectives warranted it. But here, controversy remains even after nearly 70 years. Why did the Americans persist in reinforcing failure when all the Germans needed to do to win in the Hürtgen Forest was hold on? Records prove no US general knowingly ordered fruitless operations, but the outcomes of their decisions in the forest campaign were fruitless nonetheless. In focusing on destroying the German army, the generals overlooked the key to reaching the Rhine River west of Cologne; the dams on the Roer River. The Americans had to cross the Rhine to crush the Third Reich, but to reach the Rhine they had to cross the Roer. They could not safely do so, however, without first neutralizing a series of flood-control dams that set the Roer's level. If the Germans controlled the dams, they could release flood waters and trap any US forces who had crossed to the German side against the rising river.

The Hürtgen Forest shielded the all-important dams. But American generals continued operations there for nearly three months without specifically designating the dams as an objective. Early on, not even the leadership of German Army Group B understood the dams' value.

Crises usually result from a chain of decisions. Sensibly enough, Allied supreme commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower did not want to lose the initiative his forces had gained after the invasion of France in the summer of 1944. In late August, he ordered his armies to continue their advance without waiting for resupply. That couldn't continue for long, however, so to establish supply routes, Eisenhower had to put capturing English Channel ports in France and at Antwerp, Belgium, ahead of the destruction of German forces. So he ordered Lieutenant General Omar N. Bradley,

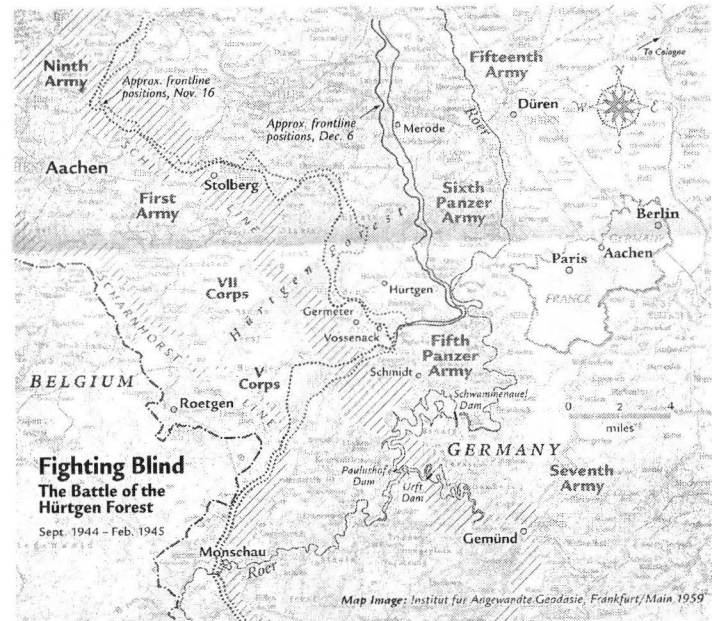
(continued on page 10)

(Hürtgen ...continued from page 9) commander of the US 12th Army Group, to weight his attack north of Belgium's densely forested Ardennes region and thereby support the British attack on Antwerp.

A succession of orders sent the two forward corps of the group's First Army toward the Roer and the city of Aachen and, by default, the Hürtgen Forest. The two corps—the V Corps, under Major General Leonard T. Gerow, and VII Corps, under Major General J. Lawton Collins—reached this area too exhausted and short on supplies to exploit the situation. Fuel and ammunition were scarce. Inaccurate projections of casualties had left them with an excess of some military specialist and a shortage of others, particularly riflemen. It did little good to fill openings in infantry units with untrained men who were not physically ready for combat. Combat veterans generally thought themselves better off in undermanned units with trained soldiers than in full-strength units loaded with men who weren't able to do their jobs properly.

Collins's VII Corps was the first to experience hard fighting. Collins had wanted to get his corps through the Siegfried Line (as the Allies called Germany's Westwall defensive line) at Aachen before attempting to capture the city. Keeping the initiative and momentum were vital, given the weakened enemy. To do that, the corps needed to secure the limited road network in its zone of attack to support operations that were planned beyond the Roer. Lieutenant General Courtney Hodges, First Army commander, approved Collins's request for his two infantry divisions, one armored division, and thousands of supporting troops to continue operations into the forest without waiting for resupply.

Gerow, whose V Corps operated on the right of the VII Corps, opposed making the attack. But Hodges's orders made sense at the time, because nearly all intelligence reports referred to the Germans' forces as weak. The Americans, however, had underestimated Germany's ability to replenish their combat power quickly. It was a misjudgment they would regret. German commanders threw every unit they could find into the line to stop a tank and infantry task force from the 3rd Armored Division in the



forest's northern reaches. Unable to concentrate their own combat power, the Americans could only gradually draw up the Siegfried Line. No written American order or plan in September had considered the broader need to control the Roer dams. It was only in October that intelligence officers and engineers first brought the matter to the attention of senior commanders, and it appears that overconfidence blinded the generals, who persisted in focusing on roads and towns instead of the river and its dams.

Meanwhile, in late September, the weakened German 353rd Infantry Division stopped the 9th Infantry Division's attack deep into the southern half of the forest. One of the 9th Division's three infantry regiments (each reduced through combat to well under its paper strength of 3,300 soldiers) was attached to the 3rd Armored, and the two remaining regiments had no flank protection. Learning forest fighting on the job was a high-risk venture, and the Germans speedily halted the advance. "We ran out of gas," Collins remarked; "that is to say, we weren't completely dry, but the effect was much the same; we ran out of ammunition; and we ran out of weather."

During the costly follow-up attack between October 6 and 16, the same two regiments of the 9th Division paid a price of 1,000 casualties per mile in a four-mile deep venture against the German 275th Infantry Division in the center of the forest. Their target was the town of Schmidt, located on high ground overlooking the big Schwammenauel Dam, though the town was not a stated objective of the attack.

What was going wrong for the Americans? German defenders were fighting from familiar ground, with pre-established artillery and mortar positions whose ranges had been calculated in advance. Their log-and-dirt-covered bunkers made excellent fighting positions that nothing short of a direct hit could destroy.

Leaders of small American units found it extremely difficult to control their troops, and medical evacuation and resupply were all but impossible much of the time. When they could, the Americans tried to integrate tanks into their infantry attacks, but as long as they remained deep in the forest, that didn't happen too often. The combat degenerated into a struggle of riflemen against riflemen among shattered trees, muddy firebreaks, and artillery-churned earth. It was vicious, brutal, terrifying, and utterly exhausting.

These events and others along the Allied front were disappointing. The port of Antwerp remained in enemy hands as November approached. Bradley's army group was buried in the mud, and operations in southern France were hampered by both the enemy and international politics. Confronted with a choice of waiting out the winter or continuing the overall offensive, the Allied ground commanders chose to build up combat power and keep fighting.

Now the struggle in the Hürtgen Forest took a savage turn. Hodges' First Army was to press through the forest to seize the crossing on the Rhine south of Cologne. It would then encircle the Ruhr industrial area from the south. British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's 21st Army Group, meanwhile, would capture the port of Antwerp and then move on the Ruhr from the north. The Germans had to trade space for time, hoping the Americans would maintain their fruitless attacks deeper into the forest. While the Americans bogged down, the Germans could build reserves of manpower, equipment, and supplies for the massive attack they planned to launch in the Ardennes (which would bring on the Battle of the Bulge).

Working in the Germans' favor was a solid cadre of officer and non-commissioned leaders who had proved able to hold small units together long after they should have collapsed in the face of American firepower. Even the hastily formed and trained *volksgrünadier* divisions (smaller divisions fitted out chiefly for defense), not to mention the reconstituted veteran formations, and an impressive amount of artillery.

The US First Army, on the other hand, had to ration ammunition during the critical period of October to mid-November to build up reserve stocks for its main attack. The Americans' big guns (8-inch and 240mm) were able to fire an average of fewer than four rounds per day.

Before the main November attack, Hodges wanted to secure his army's southern flank, a task he assigned to Major General Norman D. Cota and his 28th Infantry Division. A lack of troops forced Cota to send each of his three infantry regiments in a different direction, too far apart to support one another. To Cota's misfortune, nearly every German general who had troops near the First Army's south flank happened to be attending a staff exercise on November 2, the day the attack began. Being all together, they were informed of the situation at once and were able to respond immediately with a well-coordinated plan, ordering units to cordon off the American penetration.

Two of Cota's regiments became instantly entangled in close fighting deep in the woods, but the 112th Infantry Regiment took the town of Schmidt early on. That was the good news. What happened on the morning of November 4, however, was, in the words of one 112th veteran, "pure hell." A German counterattack ordered during the staff exercise slammed into the GIs at Schmidt that day. Lacking tank support, the American line evaporated as the German panzers aimed their cannons at individual soldiers. One GI remarked that the fire "was so loud, so powerful and so continuous that it seemed to form a background that you got used to." Exhausted to the point that they no longer cared whether they lived or died, the survivors abandoned the town.

Another 28th Division battalion, supported by a handful of tanks and tank destroyers that had managed to negotiate the narrow track that served as the 112th Infantry's main supply route, was in the neighboring village of Kommerscheidt. The armor did what it could to help delay the

(continued on page 11)

(Hürtgen ...continued from page 10)

inevitable, but there, too, the American defense melted away in the face of overwhelming enemy fire.

German artillery on surrounding higher ground broke another of Cota's rifle battalions dug in at nearby Vossenack, which had been a US objective back in October. Some of the riflemen simply disappeared when a shell hit their foxhole. The breaking point for many GIs came on the morning of November 6, when near panic took hold. One lieutenant saw men "pushing, shoving, throwing away equipment, trying to outrun the artillery and each other." Quick-thinking leaders halted what might have been a disaster. Still, 28th Division rifle battalions that had begun the attack on November 2 with more than 800 men left the forest with fewer than 100, even after adding replacements.

The November battle cost more than 6,100 US casualties, and the Americans barely hung on to their starting positions. One GI who later fought in the Battle of the Bulge recalled, "nothing was so horrible as those days and nights in the forest." The arrival of fresh troops from the 4th Infantry Division changed nothing. "The men that came out with me were so damned tired that they stepped on the bodies," one officer remembered; "they were too tired to step over."

Despite such devastating results on its southern flank, the First Army moved forward on its push toward the Rhine on November 16. American and British planes filled the skies that afternoon, covering the start of the offensive. It was the war's largest air attack in support of ground troops. Hodges planned for portions of his army in the zones of the 1st and 4th Infantry Divisions to cross the Roer. Hundreds of tanks and tank destroyers, incessantly firing artillery, and a few hundred thousand GIs surged into the German lines on the plains east of Aachen and deep in the Hürtgen Forest.

The attack was massive, but it failed to secure even the Roer. And once again, the Americans failed to target the dams. The First Army lost 25,000 of nearly 100,000 troops fighting in and near the forest itself. One battalion in the 4th Infantry Division went through four commanders in a single day (two were wounded and one killed). Rifle companies—about 190 soldiers at full strength—suffered more than 500 percent casualties after replacements were factored in. The division, about 14,000 soldiers strong, sustained nearly 5,800 casualties through the first week of December.

The hard-bitten 1st Infantry Division also suffered in northern reaches of the forest outside Aachen. One regiment moved on the village of Merode, on the forest's eastern edge, where the hilly ground slope onto the Roer plain. A fierce German counterattack destroyed two rifle companies on the night of November 29-30. Panzers fired directly into windows and blew down walls, while American tanks were stalled on the muddy, tree-blocked firebreaks outside the village. "There is one to two enemy tanks and some infantry in town....," read a November 30, 1944, entry in the regiment's operations log. "I am afraid the men in the town are going to take a beating, but there is nothing we can do about it."

The First Army's attack included a renewed drive through the center of the forest against the town of Hürtgen and adjacent high ground. These areas had been objectives for months; only the combatants changed. Now, elements of the 8th Infantry and 5th Armored Divisions followed the 9th and 28th Infantry Divisions and the 12th Infantry Regiment. The distance from the attack position to the town was only three miles, but the town did not fall until November 28. House-to-house fighting was brutal and intense as GIs threw grenades through windows and doors, then assaulted with rifle and machine-gun fire. A handful of tanks added to the barrage. One lieutenant recalled, "each house [was] a determined stronghold until the Germans inside at last became convinced they could hold no longer and still live."

While the Americans were succeeding in Hürtgen, the V Corps scrambled to control high ground farther east—ground that would enable it to protect the flank of the VII Corps, which was grinding toward the Roer plain. It took elements of the 5th Armored Division and US Army Rangers another week to claw just four miles to this high ground—the so-called Brandenberg-Bergstein Ridge and adjacent Hill 400. The hill overlooked part to the reservoir created by the Schwammenauel Dam. The 272d *Volksgrünadier* Division resisted with all the strength and will it had.

As November gave way to December, Hodges' First Army was still urgently trying to reach the Rhine, but was still tied up with objectives that were now months old. The Germans were equally intent on protecting what would very soon become the northern anchor of their great counterattack, the Ardennes offensive. Finally, the Americans ordered air attacks to breach the two largest dams on the Roer—the Schwammenauel and the Urft—and force flooding. The air attacks failed.

Three months into operations in the Hürtgen Forest, on December 13, the new 78th Infantry "Lightning" Division and attached armor finally began the first ground attack aimed specifically at the Schwammenauel Dam. To the south, at the same time, the 2nd Infantry Division and a regiment of the 99th Division aimed an attack at the Urft Dam and its reservoir. Three days of fighting yielded little except more casualties—about 2,600 between the two arms of the attack.

The December 16 start of the Ardennes offensive—the Battle of the Bulge—was proof that the Germans had won the first phases of the forest fighting. They were able to launch their planned attack despite the presence of significant American forces to the north because they held a powerful and important weapon: the Roer dams. Consequently, the Americans couldn't risk a counterattack across the river.

After the situation in the bulge stabilized in early January 1945, the Americans renewed their attack to clear the wooded Ardennes-Eifel region of Belgium and Germany and reach the Rhine. This time the dams were a significant concern. A multiphase attack to capture them began on January 30 in yard-deep snow with shoulder-high drifts. The zone of attack for the first phase was relatively open high ground on the south fringe of the forest, an area the Americans had earlier chosen not to use. The plan was to gain control of the Roer's west bank in this area. Then the 9th Infantry Division would capture the Urft Dam and reservoir, and the 78th would take the Schmidt plateau and the Schwammenauel Dam.

The 78th soon encountered a familiar enemy: the 272d *Volksgrünadier* Division, or what was left of it. The 78th, supported by elements of the veteran 5th Armored Division, fought hard between January 30 and February 3, 1945, for the open ground in the so-called Monschau Corridor south of Schmidt. The minefields, trenches, wire, and shell craters were "more reminiscent of the First World War battlefield than one of the Second," wrote one historian. Most of the farming villages that studded the area were the scene of hand-to-hand fighting in a landscape illuminated by burning houses and deep snow that covered minefields and separated the riflemen from their protecting tanks. The village of Kesternich was the scene of a chaotic house-to-house battle that proved the 78th had learned well the terrible lessons of December, when it had failed to hold the same village.

Most of the preliminary attacks south of Schmidt were complete by February 3, when the reinforced 78th began a final drive on Schmidt itself. To the south, it was somehow fitting that the veteran 9th Infantry Division, among the first to fight in the forest, secured the Urft Dam by February 5. As always, the Americans operated against the clock, this time with a scheduled February 10 start for the main attack to cross the Roer.

(continued on page 12)



On November 2, in preparation for the First Army offensive, Company E of the 28th Infantry Division's 110th Infantry Regiment creeps through the forest to attack the town of Schmidt.

(Hürtgen ...continued from page 11)



The Germans, too, had suffered in the Hürtgen Forest. At least 28,000 were casualties, and about 12,000 of those were dead—a loss very close to what the Americans suffered. These battle-fatigued German soldiers surrendered to US 9th Infantry Division troops on December 12.

This deadline put extreme pressure on the 78th Division and its commander, Major General E.P. Parker. In fact, the minute that Major General C.R. Huebner, who had replaced the reassigned Gerow as V Corps commander, suspected the attack was bogging down, he virtually assumed command of Parker's division, telling his subordinate how to deploy his units. Conflicting orders caused confusion, and the Germans took advantage of it. Parker spent hours sorting out the situation to get the attack moving again. Huebner would have done better staying out of the way.

Major General Eugen König, commander of the 272d Volksgrenadier Division, meanwhile combed his rear area desperately for reinforcements. Skillfully delaying the Americans, he managed to get much of his division on the east bank of the Roer by February 8. German combat engineers prepared the Schwammenauel Dam for destruction.

The GIs were moving in from the south (to avoid the terribly difficult western approaches used in the previous attacks on Schmidt) and were on the edge of Schmidt by February 7. Huebner was still clamoring for speed, and he put two of Parker's three infantry regiments under control of 9th Infantry Division commander Major General L.A. Craig, perhaps concluding that Parker was not up to the task. Despite this chaos, Parker's troops were clearing Schmidt and laying groundwork for the final assault by the late afternoon of February 9. Since Craig was in direct control of operations, he next ordered a battalion of the 78th to occupy the bluffs overlooking the dam. In the utter darkness, some GIs literally fell into German foxholes, and hand-to-hand fighting followed. Others reached the Schwammenauel Dam.

The Americans found that the Germans had damaged the dam's valves and water was flowing through the gates, but that the dam itself remained intact. Combat engineers slid down the dam's 150-foot-tall face and entered its machinery spaces to do their work. Questions from corps and army group streamed into the 78th Division headquarters. The final attack was scheduled to begin in hours. To ensure that any Germans who might interfere with men at the dam were eliminated, some 30 battalions of American artillery (more than 400 guns) blasted what remained of the forest in this area. Explosions turned night into day. It must have been a sight to behold: the dark Roer valley illuminated by more modern artillery power than the entire US Army had possessed when the war began in 1939.

It became clear that although the dam was intact, the damage to the floodgates could not be repaired. There was no catastrophic flood, but the river continued its slow rise, and the Americans postponed their attack across the river. Still, they had finally accomplished a goal that had eluded them for months.

Between September 1944 and early February 1945, about 35,000 GIs and at least as many Germans soldiers were casualties from all causes in a campaign the American leadership approached with little if any imagination. The question since has been whether the fighting had to happen in the first place—or whether it could at least have ended sooner, and at a cost of fewer lives.

Edward G. Miller is the author of *A Dark and Bloody Ground: The Hürtgen Forest and the Roer River Dams, 1944-1945* (2003)

Veterans Day Address - 2011

American Legion, Scotts Hill, Tennessee

Saturday, November 5, 2011

By Paul Schumacher

Commander Taylor; Distinguished Guests; Legionnaires; Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Veterans; Men and Women in uniform currently serving; Family and friends of our veterans and Armed Forces.

Greetings to you as we prepare for our annual holiday on 11 November. I told Commander Taylor that I would try to pack an hour of comments into a 15-minuted period. You be the judge of how well I succeed.

Let me begin by telling you a little about my Division. The 9th Infantry Division was among the first to land in North Africa. Then it was a lead division during the campaign in Sicily. And, it landed on Utah Beach on D-Day plus 3. Later on, troops of the 9th Infantry Division were the first to cross the border into Belgium. In mid-September 1944, 67 years ago, we were the first to enter Germany to take part in the Battle of the Hürtgen Forest. Once into Germany, it took 2½ months to cover the next 50 miles.

About Thanksgiving 1944, we exited the heavily forested area to see the Cologne plain—flatland about 30 miles to the Rhine River. But, we did not make it to the Rhine River till early March 1945 because of Hitler's plan called the "Battle of the Bulge." Shortly after 16 December 1944, we retreated into Belgium where we stayed till the end of January 1945. You have surmised correctly; we were in the Hürtgen Forest for a long, very cold, snowy 4-months. When in February 1945 we were finally able to move eastward again, positions that we had secured in 1944, that were given up during the retreat, had to be re-taken.

I crossed the bridge at Remagen on 9 March 1945. About 3-weeks later, my platoon liberated a concentration camp. If you have Holocaust doubters in your neighborhood, please assure them that the camps existed. The camp at Nordhausen was small, but the view into it as I walked along the fence for about a city-block was indeed horrifying. Three weeks later, we stopped on the Elbe River near Dessau; about 30 miles north of Leipzig. We stayed on the Elbe River until hostilities ended in Europe. Some personnel in the 9th Infantry Division went on to serve in Vietnam and also the Cold War in Europe.

In Europe today are many American Cemeteries; numerous well-stocked museums; and, places of remembrance such as the Monument to the Martyr's at Bastogne, Belgium. We here today have not forgotten those that were among us for a brief time. In the American Cemetery at Henri-Chapelle, Belgium, there are more than 500 markers for casualties of the 9th Infantry Division in the Hürtgen Forest, the Battle of the Bulge, the crossing of the Rhine River, and, the liberation of Belgium.

- 137 of those are for troops of the 39th Infantry Regiment (my organization)
- 97% of those casualties were Combat Infantrymen

I was a Combat Infantryman; and, I wept when I first walked through the American Cemetery at Normandy; and at Henri-Chapelle and Condroz in Belgium; and at Margraten in the Netherlands; and at Epinal in France; and at the one in Luxembourg. By-the-way: There is no WW II American Cemetery on German soil! These cemeteries, museums and monuments also are a genuine expression of admiration the people of Europe have for the American people.

Here's a brief description of the Ardennes Cemetery at Condoz, Belgium:

Dimensions: 90.5 acres; Headstones: 5,311; Latin Crosses: 5,183; Stars of David: 128

Missing in Action: 462; Unknown: 792; Sets of Brothers: 11

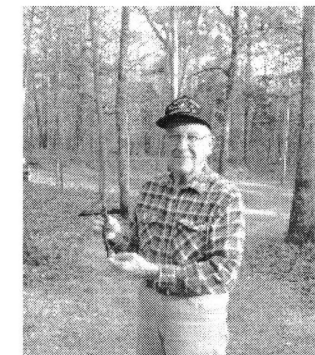
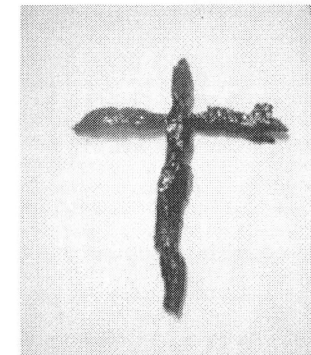
(continued on page 13)

(Veteran Day Address ...continued from page 12)

This year, on 22 September, the Belgium people celebrated the 20th anniversary of a program called "Adoption of American Gravesites." It was a day of remembrance of those men and women who made the supreme sacrifice for Belgium's freedom. THE BELGIUM PEOPLE REMEMBER US!

I close by saying something good about the people in the Hürtgen Forest. This cross is made from 4 pieces of shrapnel that were collected in the Hürtgen Forest battlegrounds. A craftsman dug the pieces from the ground in recent years and gave this cross to me as a present during my visit a few weeks ago to Vossenack, Germany. Finally, something good has happened to me in the Hürtgen Forest. God bless you for showing a keen interest in veterans and the women and men in our Armed Forces.

Let us have a memorable Veterans Day this year!



Cross Dimensions:
Vertical axis = 9 inches; Horizontal axis = 7 inches;
Thickness = ½ inch to ¾ inch;
Estimated Weight: 2 to 2½ pounds;
Material: solid steel

MAIL CALL

Albert Trostorf

About three years ago I was contacted by a gentleman from Eastern Germany who lives close to the border of Poland. He contacted me concerning the research for his uncle, who served with the 5th Company, 5th Parachute Regiment, 3rd Parachute Division during WW II. The only information he could give me was that his uncle, Rudolf Richter, is missing in action since 12 December 1944. The last information from the company commander says that Rudolf Richter is missing in action 200 meters north of Schlich.

I checked my files and found the same information in the casualty roster of the 5th Parachute Regiment. I mailed a copy of the roster along with several photos to Mr. Richter's nephew in Eastern Germany. About one or two days later he called me on the phone and said that his father and his auntie (a sister and a brother of the missing soldier) had identified their brother on a US Signal Corps photo. The photo was taken on 12 December 1944 at Jüngersdorf about one mile northwest of Schlich (also neighboring the town of Merode). They showed the photo to some of the old school friends of Rudolf Richter and all of them said this person could be Rudolf. I have enlarged the photo and have marked the person who could be Rudolf. Also, I have attached a photo of Rudolf Richter a few weeks before he was drafted.

The US soldiers in the photo are from I Company, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division.

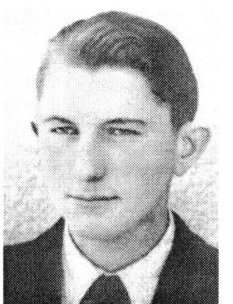
Maybe you can publish these photo with the story in the newsletter and maybe there is a soldier still alive who can remember this scene. The photo was taken in front of a farm building at Jüngersdorf. Maybe I can send you an additional photo of the farm house, how it looks today. It doesn't change much since 1944.

Any help and assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Albert Trostorf



US Signal Corps Photos
12 December 1944; Jüngersdorf, Germany



Rudolf "Rudi" Richter

MAIL CALL

Yuri Beckers

Email: yuri@9thinfantrydivision.net
 Website: www.9thinfantrydivision.net

Dear veterans of the 9th Infantry Division, and all family members who read the Octofoil newspaper. Many of you might not realize that there are young men like myself, who think of you every day. Each day I wake up, and think of you. I think how thankful I am for my freedom. I think of you, men who once were young, and left their families, loved ones, homes, towns, work and dreams behind to go to Europe and fight a war far away from home. I often think about this, and I always feel a very huge respect for each and one of you. I am 34 years old, but have been interested in World War 2 since I was 7 years old. My grandfather was part of the Dutch resistance, and helped in saving several Jewish people. He also sabotaged several German radio posts. I am proud of him as well. Because of this, my look on life has always been very positive. I am thankful for what I have in my life, and the freedom my family received because of the actions of men like you. Many of you did not return home. Please know that these men are visited by many people in Europe, every day, and have not been forgotten.

For several years, I have been researching the World War 2 actions of the 9th Infantry Division. My main interest is the period between September 1944 and February 1945. This was the period in which several regiments and battalions fought in the area known as the Hurtgen Forest in Germany. After collecting information about this battle and the 9th Division for several years, I decided to create a website dedicated to the 9th Infantry Division. While setting this up, I realized that during my research, I was not able to find a lot of good books that have been written about the Ninth's actions in general. Sure, there are the official Division books like "Eight stars to victory" and the regimental histories, but these books are out of print, expensive and pretty hard to find these days. The same goes for some of the books written by veterans. Most of these are long out of print, and hard to find. I did manage to collect quite a lot of these original printings, which are very valuable for their information. Besides these books, I have collected many After Action Reports and documents about the events and the Division.

Several books that have been written about the Hurtgen Forest battle mention the actions of the 9th Division, but they manage to capture all the months of fighting in just 1 or 2 short chapters, before writing the rest of the books about the other Divisions. The story of the Ninth in these books is not complete. This made me want to write a book about this. I started writing last year, and thanks to some great contacts with family members and veterans, I have managed to come up with a lot of information and some good stories. The support I have received is overwhelming, and I am very grateful for this. Veterans have become my friends because of this, and they have shared their feelings and memories with me. I always feel that I need to give something in return as well, to show the people that trust me and support me that I am willing to do things for them as well. My main goal is to write a good book about the actions of the 9th Division that will explain the actions of the 9th in the Hurtgen Forest battle as good as possible. I have lived in Maastricht, the Netherlands for many years until a few years ago. This Dutch city is situated only an hour by car from the Hurtgen area. I started to visit the area from 2002 on. My last trip was this past summer. I know I can't thank each veteran here in person, so I decided to write about some of the areas I have visited, as some of you might be interested in reading a bit more about how the area looks these days.

May 2011. On this cloudy day we enter a small town in Germany. It looks like any other town in the area, but one thing makes this town stand out. There used to be a large railway bridge here. In fact, it was the only bridge still intact to cross the Rhine River in 1945. Yes, this is the town of Remagen, and the bridge is the Ludendorff Bridge. We park the car on a parking next to the Rhine River, and walk along the water front. After 2 minutes, we see the hill across the river, overlooking the town, and on the foot of this hill we see the two remaining stone towers that once were part of the railway bridge. Many men of the 9th Infantry Division crossed the Rhine River here before the bridge collapsed. We continue our walk, and find the other stone towers on our part of the river. A beautiful plaque dedicated to the 9th Infantry Division is attached to the wall. Inside there is a small museum that mainly has a lot pictures from the period before the Allies arrived.

We walk through the city as well, and I manage to find some of the locations where certain pictures of the 9th have been taken during the war. I snap some shots myself, creating some amazing "then and now" shots.

A few days later, I find myself and a friend driving in a beautiful forest area in Germany. The weather is great. Bright sunlight is shining down on us as we drive the small bendy roads that go through the forest area nearby towns like Roetgen, Lamersdorf, and Zweifall. While driving we notice parts of Hitler's "West Wall." Large parts of the so called "Dragon Teeth" (Anti-Tank obstacles) are visible left and right of the road we are on. We make our first stop near the town of Roetgen. Many of you will know that this is the area where members of the 47th Infantry Regiment crossed the West Wall. There are some well known pictures of the 39th Infantry Regiment soldiers sitting on the Sherman tanks, crossing the opening in between these Dragon Teeth. We manage to find the exact location where this picture has been taken, and walk into the forest nearby. Many Dragon Teeth lay hidden in the bushes and are overgrown in the forest area. A small stream wanders through it. This was actually part of the defense back in 1944 as well. We walk further toward the road, and notice an opening in the Dragon Teeth. This is part of the West Wall that was blown up by a group of engineers in September 1944, since the road was blocked by a

(continued next column)

MAIL CALL

huge crater that became bogged up with mud and rain, making it impossible for heavy armored vehicles to pass through. I am amazed that besides the trees and bushes that have grown there, the area did not change anything. It feels like stepping back into time.

After taking some pictures, we drive on towards the Raffelsbrand area. This was the location of heavy fights for the 39th and 60th Infantry Regiments in September and October 1944. The area is scattered with many pillboxes and bunkers. It is hard to imagine today, that taking these bunkers cost so many lives back in 1944. Men kept attacking the area in order to take control of the pillboxes and the road networks in the area. At the end of September 1944, only a small part of the area was in the hands of the 9th. The desired capture of the town of Germeter did not materialize during this month. Therefore, another attack was ordered for October. Again, men from the 39th and 60th Infantry Regiments pushed their way through the fields and forest area toward the town of Germeter. From my research I was able to find out where the units departed from, and we used the same coordinated to start our walk. We walked according to the After Action Reports, and it is chilling how accurate these are. We cross the small river, walk further onto steep slope, and find the foxholes that once were the "homes" of men of the 9th Infantry Division. We have a look around these, and find several items like empty M1 clips and shell casing, batteries, parts of a US standard Gasmask, medicine bottles, and many, many pieces of metal shrapnel. Scars of the battle are still visible these days. We find a bigger hole, and according to the report and coordinates, this must have been the former Command Post in the area.

We then arrive at the tree line, overlooking a large field. Behind it lays the small town of Germeter. Foxholes are visible all along the tree line. This was the point where the men of the 9th stopped their advance. Crossing the open field towards Germeter would expose them to artillery and small arm fire from the German soldiers. In the field there used to be a small collection of sheds and tents, home to the German soldiers. None of these sheds remain today. We take a moment in silence to reflect upon the events that took place there in October 1944. We place several flowers, and continue our trip.

A bit south of the Germeter tree line, there is an area that is known as "Deadman's Moor." Heavy fighting for only a hand full of bunkers took place here in September and October 1944. We see the cross for 2LT. Eisenhower in front of the field where once a bunker made it impossible for these young men to advance. 2nd LT Eisenhower died in this field while trying to take over the bunker. We place a flower here as well, take a moment of silence, and continue the area of Jaegerhaus. Companies of the 60th Infantry Regiment fought in this small area for days, trying to take over the several pillboxes in the area. This place is covered with foxholes, craters where explosives detonated, torn up trees, and remains of bunkers. The amount of shrapnel pieces in the ground indicates how bad the shelling barrages were in this part of the forest. We visit the improvised monument for Private Walter Reuter Jr., who went missing in action here, alongside Staff Sergeant Raymond Carlyle Blanton. In 2004, the dog-tags for Pvt. Reuter have been found on this very spot, and the forester who found them, made a small monument from rocks of the pillbox remains nearby. Last year I added the photographs of these two men, and slowly the monument grew. This year, someone even added a cross, made out of barbed wire poles, found nearby as well. We place flowers here as well, and take a moment of silence. I am not ashamed to say that tears ran down my cheeks on that moment while I thought about the young men who fought so hard, so far away from home. I thanked them for my freedom right there.

The last place we visit is an area near Zweifall. Through my research I got in contact with Mr. Claude Berghorn, son of Tech 4th Grade Emery Berghorn, veteran of the 26th Field Artillery Battalion. I feel that the Field Artillery actions often have been overlooked in many history books, and thanks to Mr. Berghorn, I took on the big task of finding out as much as possible about these Field Artillery units, their actions and their positions. So, with the help of Mr. Berghorn, we both researched several reports, and matched our findings. It was a perfect match, and after translating the coordinated, we managed to pinpoint the area where his father's unit would have been in 1944. My friend and I stop near the town of Zweifall, next to an old factory. A lumberyard is nearby. We enter the forest area via the only road leading into it. Several war relics are displayed alongside the road. We then climb up a steep part of the forest, and actually manage to find foxholes! This must have been the location where men from the 26th Field Artillery unit stayed in 1944. After looking around, I even find a pair of pliers, some communication wires, and an empty shell case. This whole experience was very special to me, and while sitting on the edge of one of the foxholes, I take a moment to remember Tech 4th Grade Emery Berghorn, who passed away in 2005. During the research for my book, I also met Mary Lovell, the daughter of Chief Warrant Officer Frank Lovell, veteran of the 60th Field Artillery Battalion. Frank kept a diary through the war, and took many pictures. Frank passed away several years ago, but his daughter Mary decided to publish the diaries of her father. After sharing a lot of information with each other, we managed to meet up in the town of Monschau in Germany. Mrs. Lovell traveled to Germany to see if she could locate some of the places her father wrote about in the diary. It was an honor for me to meet up with her, and together we drove around in the area. We visited the Camp Elsenborn museum, well known to you veterans of the 9th. A nice museum is now inside this camp, and the Octofoil patch can be found in here several times. You "Old Reli-ables" sure left an impression there! Mrs. Lovell and I managed to find several spots and locations that her father wrote about, and had some pictures from. This whole day was a very special experience. So, with this I would like to end my story. I hope you find it interesting to read. I took pictures during these trips, and I will be happy to send any of these to anyone interested in seeing them. Some of the complete stories of the veterans mentioned in this story can be found on my website. For now I would like to thank each veteran of the 9th Infantry Division for my freedom. Please know your actions will never be forgotten. Yuri

MAIL CALL

Officers and Board of Governors

2011-2012

Officers

Joseph Maiale, President

Dr. Martin Gross, 1st V.P.

Col. Ralph Williams, 3rd V.P.

William Robey, Secty-Treas.

Board of Governors

Terms Expiring 2012

Lawrence Kaufman

Albert Lipton

Charles Illsley

Henry Geary (serving for Ira Moser)

Terms Expiring 2013

Winston Campbell

Paul Schumacher

William Robey

Dr. Martin Gross

Russell Bellanca

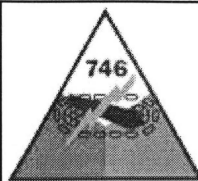
Terms Expiring 2014

Joseph Maiale

Clarence Ray

Appointed Officials

Rev. Jeannie Higgins, Chaplain

William Sauers, Publisher/Editor, *The Octofoil*

746th Tank Battalion
 "Tanks For The Memories"

Shreveport Reunion
 June 14 - 16, 2012

Location: Holiday Inn West
 5555 Financial Plaza, Shreveport, Louisiana

Price: \$92.00 (plus tax) per room, per night (king bed or two double beds)

Reservations: 318-688-3000

It is best to make reservations Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and ask for the Sales Department. Identify yourself as part of the 746th Tank Battalion with the Block Code "TBA." The room rate is guaranteed through May 30, 2012

746th Hosts: John Lowrey and family



THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

9-DIGIT ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

World War II Unit Identification:

Company _____ Regiment _____

Battery _____ Artillery Battalion _____

Other 9th Unit _____

Membership Fee:

Amount Due

Regular Annual Member (\$15.00 per year)
 World War II 9th Infantry Division veterans only

Memorial Donation: In Memory Of,

Name(s) _____

Ninth Infantry Division Association Decals:

Two decals for \$1.00

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

Chapter Designation (circle one if desired)

Greater New York Michigan Florida Texas & The Greater Southwest

Make check payable to: 9th Infantry Division Association

Send to: William Robey, _____

The Octofoil

Subscription Form

Annual subscription fee: \$20.00 (July 1 through June 30)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

9-Digit Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Check payable to: The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Send to: Publisher, The Octofoil
 2960 West 234th Street
 Torrance, CA 90505-4104



THE OCTOFOIL

2960 West 234th Street
Torrance, CA 90505-4104

Return Service Requested

Hotel Shuttle?
Hours Shuttle
Super Shuttle
Reservations - 3826
800-258-1333
PIT to Hotel
13 miles

498
498
996
137
498
Thurs
Total PD

67th ANNUAL REUNION
Friday to Sunday, August 17 - 19, 2012
SHERATON - STATION SQUARE HOTEL
300 W. STATION SQUARE DRIVE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219

412-261-2000

Make checks payable to: The Ninth Infantry Division Association
Mail to: William Sauers, 2960 W. 234th St., Torrance, CA 90505-4104
For more information about this change call William at [REDACTED]

A deposit of \$200.00 per person must be made by May 15, 2012. Final payment **MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 15, 2012**. Reservations made after July 15, 2012 will be subject to room availability. If final payment is not made by July 15, 2012, deposit will be refunded and reservation cancelled. All reservations must be made with this form.

Arrival Date: 8/16/12 ROOM RESERVATION FORM Departure Date: 8/20/12

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, Saturday night dinner cruise and gratuities for these events only.

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

SINGLE
695.00

DOUBLE
498.00

TRIPLE
425.00

QUAD
395.00

Hotel will give us the same special room rate (\$137.00) for 3 days before and 3 days after our reunion for those who want to stay longer in Pittsburgh. 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.