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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

7-1-2012

The Octofoil, July/August/September 2012

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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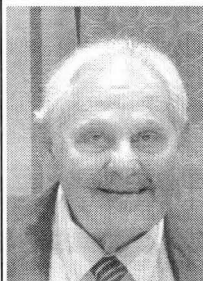
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The Octofoil

Jul.-Aug.-Sept.,
2012

Volume LXVII, No. 3



President
Joseph Maiale

President's Message

Hello everyone. I guess you'll be stuck with me as your president for another year. At the 67th reunion, the membership voted that I remain in office until the resolution of the previous Secretary-Treasurer criminal case. He was indicted by the Prince George County, Maryland, Grand Jury, arrested, and charged with embezzlement of \$26,815.35 of Association funds going back to 2009. The trial is scheduled for October 29, 2012. In addition to myself, William Sauers and Richard Cohen have been subpoenaed to testify at the trial. Nationwide Insurance will not pay out on the Treasurer Position Bond until the District Attorney's office shares the evidence with them after the trial. The bond limit is \$25,000.00. Additionally, the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans or the collection agency is still owed \$25,929.16 for the 2011 reunion.

William Sauers was elected Treasurer. Clare Irwin was elected Secretary. Also, the Board of Governors voted to change the bylaws to allow sons, daughters, other lineal descendants, spouses, widows of veterans to become full members of The Ninth Infantry Division Association, as well as 9th Infantry Division Vietnam Veterans. The new bylaws are printed on page 12 for your reference. Other changes will be forthcoming.

For those of you who were at the reunion in Pittsburgh, you know how great it was. And if you weren't there, you missed a good time. The Memorial Service featured an inspiring message by Rev. Tom Hall, a 30-year Air Force veteran. Other highlights were the Gateway Clipper Dinner-Dance cruise, the banquet speech by Major General James A. Hoyer and the West Virginia National Guard Army Band, who entertained us with renditions of the Glenn Miller Band. Some of the young ladies and gentlemen who were not playing at the time, danced with some of our members who were thrilled. Having not danced in years, and to have a beautiful young lady or a handsome young man escort them around the floor, made them feel important!

Thanks to all who planned the reunion and those who attended!
Stay well everyone. We look forward to seeing all of you next year.

Joe Maiale, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Treasurer Report

In a word: HEALTHY. As of June 30, 2012 we have recovered from near financial disaster. I think it's important for you to understand how our checking account is setup and how the monies flow in and out. So let me explain. It is divided into six sub accounts as follows:

-1 sub account is the General Fund; -2 sub account is the newsletter subscription account; -3 sub account is the Octofoil Library Project; -4 sub account is the Memorial Fund, aka Tip of the Hat; -5 sub account is the Friends of Father Connors Fund; -6 sub account is for the reunions. The -1 sub account income consists of membership dues, general fund donations, sale of memorabilia, i.e. decals, coffee mugs, hats, reunion raffle ticket sales etc. General funds will be used to pay operating expenses and other expenses as appropriate. The remaining sub accounts are self-explanatory. It is most important to note in memo section of your checks/money orders the sub account to make the deposit. For example, if you want to renew membership, subscribe to the newsletter, make a memorial donation, and make a reunion deposit, you can write one check.; just be clear in the memo section how you want the funds distributed or attach a note with the directions. All checks/money orders received are copied and all notes saved to provide a paper trail for accountability.

I am currently using an Excel spreadsheet to track all the income and expenses. Down the road we may switch to something like Quick Books or Quicken as these software programs make the data entry less labor intensive and reports can also be produced more efficiently.

Now, let's get down to business. When the sons and daughters had their meeting last year I proposed we change our personal checking account to a business account and establish sub account categories to better track our income and expenses. On August 23, 2011, the old personal checking account was closed a new free business account was opened at Chase bank for the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary titled "The Ninth Infantry Division Association." The new account was opened by transferring \$2,331.58 of sons and daughters funds.

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www.octofoil.org

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OUR MISSION

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

THE OCTOFOIL

The official publication of The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc.. 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:

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Volume LXVII, Number 3 July-August-September, 2012

(Treasurer Report...continued from page 1)

These funds were distributed to the various sub accounts as follows: -1 acct. = \$584.14; -2 acct. = \$400.00; -3 acct. = \$665.00; -4 acct. = \$0.00; -5 acct. = \$682.44. The -6 account was not added until January 2012 because at the time we had no idea what was on the horizon. As the financial situation continued to deteriorate President Maiale sent a check for \$1,000.00 to be deposited in -6 account on February 6, 2012. I should also note that President Maiale made multiple attempts to contact the previous Secretary-Treasurer... to no avail. This money was used to make required deposit payments for the reunion. As news spread about our financial disaster you all responded and all sub accounts began to recover.

On February 27, 2012 I sent a letter to all Officers and Board of Governors informing them the merger of the Sons and Auxiliary and Association funds was complete. I also included a breakdown of the sub account balances at the time.

The income/expense statement table shown on page 8 details the sub account activity from August 23, 2011 to June 30, 2012. At the end of June total cash balance in the checking was \$35,115.74. A tremendous recovery over the past 6 month period.

At the same we assumed control of our CGM Fund investment account. During the February - March time frame I was contacted by CGM Fund regarding our dividend payments. I instructed them to begin reinvesting those dividends rather than take a cash payout as had been the practice in the past. By April 30, 2012, due to the dividend reinvestment we now own 719.516 shares. See the table on page 8 for recent investment history.

Also on page 8 is the final statement for the -6 reunion sub account. It is important to note that due to your support and those willing to put in the work we ended the reunion with an \$819.93 cash balance. This balance has been transferred to the -1 General Fund sub account.

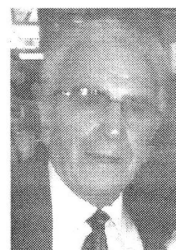
I would also point out that all these statements are unaudited at this time.

(continued on page 8)

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



Samuel J. Azzarelli
Kankakee, Ill.



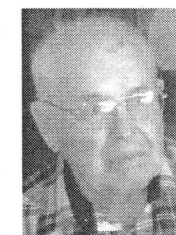
Andrew Balaschak
Johnstown, Pa.



X. John Bonkowski
Roseville, Mich.



Michael Haberman
Hackettstown, N.J.



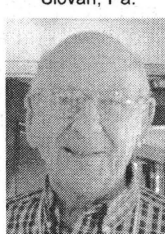
Leo V. Hess
Pipestone, Minn.



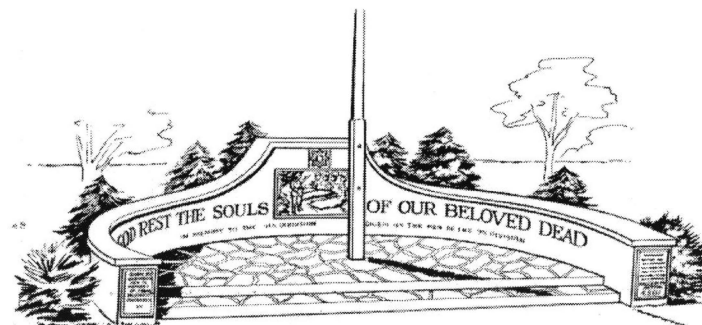
Casimir J. Pakisz
Slovan, Pa.



Harold Schramm
New Milford, N.J.



Paul Schumacher
Selmer, Tenn.



Friends of Father Connors Fund

The Friends of Father Connors Fund would like to thank the following new donors for their generous contributions:

William E. Mizell, Chesapeake, Va.
Elaine Noe, Colonial Beach, Va.
William J. Rybka, Raleigh, N.C.
Sandra A. Bosko, Preston, Conn.
Mary Cooper, Houston, Tex.
Greater New York Chapter, Franklin Square, N.Y.
New England Chapter, Marstons Mills, Mass.
Russell Bellanca, Rochester, N.Y.
Paul Schumacher, Selmer, Tenn.
Joyce Schumacher, Columbus, Ohio
Dr. Charles H. Stern, Woodway, Tex.
Martin J. and Joan L. Roach, Northbridge, Mass.

At this writing our fund balance is \$8,882.44. We are about 39% of the way to our goal of \$22,932.00.

It does not appear we will be able to raise sufficient funds in time to allow a complete restoration before November 11, 2012. A partial restoration work plan is being developed with the contractor. As an example: repointing a few mortar joints around the stone work on the steps and the base of memorial; cleaning and polishing the flag pole; replacing the flag; cleaning all stone and brick work; cleaning the brass plaques on each side; possibly re-sealing the top concrete caps; resealing some of the caulking around other joints; polishing or replacing the Plexiglas covering over the tile mosaic. We are working with the contractor to determine exactly what we can do now and not have to do over when we raise the additional funds.

The preliminary planning for the 50th year rededication ceremony on Sunday, November 11, 2012, is continuing. We are invited to participate in the City of Worcester annual Veterans' Day parade starting at 11:00 a.m. The parade route this year is being reversed and will end at the church. Currently three veteran association members have committed to attend and will be in the parade. Starting about noon we will have a 30 to 40 minute rededication ceremony that will include color guards, city officials, church officials, parishioners, local veterans groups, and other association representatives. Upon conclusion of the ceremony we will gather in the Fr. Connors Center for refreshments.

The Courtyard by Marriott Worcester, 72 Grove Street, Worcester is offering a block of rooms at the group rate of \$129.00 for a single king bed room including breakfast or a two queen bed room for \$139.00 including breakfast. Currently state sales and occupancy taxes are 14.45%. You may make your reservations by calling the hotel direct at 508-363-0300 and referencing "The Ninth Infantry Division Association." Reservations must be received on or before **October 20, 2012**. The hotel is on the parade route and a few blocks south of the church.

Please keep those donations coming as there is a lot of major work to be done. Make you donation checks/money orders payable to **The Ninth Infantry Division Association** and note in the memo section "Friends of Father Connors Fund." Send to William Sauers, [redacted]

If you have any questions about the project and/or the planned ceremony please call William at [redacted]

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 Sauers, Treasurer
[redacted]

Mildred A. Billington in memory of her husband Harold L. Billington and Richard Newell

Myron R. Kalish in memory of Richard Newell

Gudrun "Goody" Fatlan in memory of her husband Leo E. Fatlan

Louis M. Prince in memory of 60th Combat Team

Ralph E. Burris in memory of Sgt. John Neal

Richard Merrill in memory of his father Dwight D. Merrill

John Baswell in memory of J.W. Baswell

Marilyn Martin in memory of Thomas Hatton and John Bonkowski

Mary Doering in memory of Thomas Hatton and John Bonkowski

Only Rishel in memory of Thomas Hatton

Erik and Kaye Olson in memory of Thomas Hatton

Harold Schramm in memory of Emil Langer and Dan Quinn

Sandra Ann Bosko in memory of recently deceased veterans

Thelma Solar in memory of her husband Richard L. Solar

Geri Throne in memory of her father Norbert Gorny

Dr. Martin Gross in memory of Ira Moser and Charles Van Der Poel

Rosalyn Gross in memory of Jean Geary

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.

Bivouac of the Dead by Theodore O'Hare - 1847

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

Harold L. Billington
M Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

X. John Bonkowski
9th Recon Troop

Thomas W. Hatton
C Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

Robert Pifer
M Co., 60th Inf. Regt.

TAPS OBITUARIES

Harold L. Billington 1919 - 2012

M Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

Harold L. Billington, 92, of Armington, died on Sunday, July 8, 2012, at the Maple Ridge Care Centre in Lincoln.

Mr. Billington is survived by his wife, Mildred; his four children; one brother; nine grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren. Harold is further survived by seventeen great-grandchildren; fourteen step-great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and two step-great-great-grandchildren.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and two grandchildren.

Harold Leslie Billington was born on August 26, 1919, in Latham, Illinois, the son of Cecil G. and Clara L. Trago Billington. He married Mildred A. Hulvey in Bloomington on October 4, 1946.

Mr. Billington served our country in the U.S. Army during WW II. As a member of the 60th Infantry, Harold participated in the invasion of Africa in October 1942; invasion of Sicily in 1943, and the invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. He received a Silver Star Medal, Good Conduct Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon, European African Middle East Theater Ribbon with one silver and one bronze battle stars and five overseas service bars. Harold was the highest decorated serviceman in Armington.

Harold worked at Williams Oilomatic in Bloomington and Billington Service Station in Armington from 1949 to 1959. He was a member of the Armington Christian Church.



X. John Bonkowski 1922 - 2012

9th Reconnaissance Troop

John Bonkowski of Roseville, Michigan, a proud veteran of WWII died on Monday, September 10, 2012, at the age of 90 in St. John Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. He was born on April 13, 1922 in Detroit to John and Julia (nee

Stankiewicz) Bonkowski. John was the devoted husband of his late beloved wife Rose who died on February 2, 2007. They were happily married for 60 years. John was the loving father of Kathi (Craig) Stachecki, Jan Sewick, Ron Bonkowski, and Dennis (Barb) Bonkowski. John and Rose had 11 loving grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was the brother of Jane, John, Dolores, and the late Genevieve and Irene.
(continued next column)

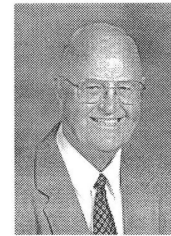
John entered the service in January 1943, and went through basic training, tank destroyer school, and basic radio training at Camp Hood, Texas. He then had communications training at Fort Riley, Kansas. In March 1945, John was deployed to the European Theater (ETO), serving as a radio operator in the 9th Reconnaissance Troop - 9th Infantry Division. He served in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns, and returned to the U.S.A. in March 1946. After the war, John and Rose got married and started their family. He worked for General Motors - Fisher Body, first as a metal model maker, then in the physical test lab. He retired in 1984.

Throughout his life John was active in his community, volunteering in political campaigns, the neighborhood homeowners association, and in managing youth softball teams. He was an active member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans (Post 169), and for the past 27 years he put together an annual newsletter for the classmates, friends and families of his Resurrection Grade School Class of 1936. He was extremely knowledgeable and skilled in home remodeling, electrical work, and appliance and automotive repair. If you broke it, John could fix it. He always put others first, never failing to share his vast abilities to help family, friends, and neighbors. John was honest, humble, generous, unselfish, and a faithful Catholic. He had a great, gentle sense of humor that remained intact to the end. John never complained about his problems, and he left the attending nurses and hospital staff smiling.

One of John's greatest joys in life was sharing the friendship and companionship of his buddies in the 9th Infantry Division Association. He was very active in the Michigan Chapter and the National organization, and served as National President in 1965. His children have lasting memories of attending long-ago 9th Infantry Division Association conventions in Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Pittsburgh and other places in addition to the annual Memorial services conducted by Fr. Connors in Worcester, Mass. He was a frequent contributor to *The Octofoil*, writing numerous articles and news-notes in regard to the happenings in the Michigan Chapter. John had friends across the country and wrote countless letters to them. And he would always include heartfelt notes in greeting cards to his family and friends.

Until the end, John lived on his own in his condo. Recently, John's health deteriorated due to the effects of long standing medical issues, and the Lord finally called him home. God bless John and Rose's souls and all the "Old Reliabilities" who served this nation with honor and dignity.

TAPS OBITUARIES



Thomas W. Hatton 1924 - 2012

4th Platoon, C Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

Beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and brother, passed away peacefully Wednesday, August 8, 2012, at his home, surrounded by his family. Age 88 years.

He was born January 13, 1924, in Saginaw, the son of the late Millicent "Annie (Williams) and John Hatton, Sr. He graduated from Arthur Hill Technical School. He served with the U.S. Army, 9th Infantry Division, during World War II, serving in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, one silver and three battle stars, and four overseas service bars. He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Medal of Honor by the French Government.

He had been a firefighter with the City of Saginaw Fire Department for 35 years, retiring as Lieutenant. He was a 50 year member of Grace Presbyterian Church, where he served as Elder and Trustee. He later was a member of Second Presbyterian Church. He was a member of The Ninth Infantry Division Association, serving as Past National President, and also serving as Michigan Chapter President. He was a life-member of VFW Post #1566. He loved being with his family, spending time at his cabin up north, fishing and hunting, and traveling.

He married Geraldine R. Arndt on May 10, 1947; she predeceased him January 13, 1999. Surviving are two daughters, one son and their spouses; eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; one brother; and many nieces, nephews and their families.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veteran's Day is 50th anniversary of WWII war memorial in Worcester

This Veteran's day, Sunday, November 11th, will mark the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the memorial to the 4,581 American soldiers killed in action in World War II while serving in the U.S. Army's Ninth Infantry Division. The Ninth Infantry Division Association will honor both World War II veterans and Vietnam War veterans in a special re-dedication ceremony. The annual Worcester Veteran's Day parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Massachusetts Military Museum and will proceed north on Grove Street, ending at the Ninth Infantry Division war memorial on the grounds of Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove Street.

The memorial was originally conceived by Father Edward T. Connors, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church from 1952 to 1980, who served in WWII as a chaplain for the Ninth Infantry Division in campaigns in Europe and North Africa, and returned a decorated war hero. At the rear of the semi-circular memorial is a mosaic picture of a chaplain praying over flag-draped coffins while American G.I.s pay their respects. Above the mosaic hangs the red, white, and blue Octofoil insignia of the Ninth Infantry Division, and behind that, encased in the wall, are the microfilm names of each of the 4,581 World War II soldiers killed in action, as well as over 1,500 soldiers killed in the Vietnam War.

Following the parade and re-dedication ceremony, Immaculate Conception Church will host a reception with refreshments for veterans, their families, and the public in attendance. The reception will be in the Father Connors Center on the Church grounds

For more information, please contact:
Mr. William Sauers

Chapter and Auxiliary News

Ladies Auxiliary Merges with The Ninth Infantry Division Association, August 18, 2012; Minutes of annual meeting at Sheraton Station Square Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The annual meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary, 9th Infantry Division was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by President Rosalyn (Roz) Gross. All attendees were welcomed. Board of Directors present: Rosalyn Gross, President; Judy Goldsmith, Treasurer; Jackie Armstrong, Secretary.

Secretary Report by Jackie Armstrong: Janet Schnall read the minutes from the August 2011 meeting in New Orleans, La. Motion made by Cathy Stern, and seconded by Glenda Baswell to accept the minutes. Motions carried; there were no corrections or additions. The following nineteen attendees were present: Jackie Armstrong, Nancy Stern Bain, Sandra Bosko, Glenda Baswell, Helen Bellanca, Lavonne Blann, Janet Casanave Brown, Mary Cooper, Mary Kay Darr, Judy Goldsmith, Rosalyn Gross, Sadie Maiale, Bette Prochaska, Janet Schnall, Joyce Schumacher, Thelma Solar, Cathy Stern, Kathy Tapelt, Jeanette Taylor.

Treasurer Report by Judy Goldsmith: Judy gave an explanation of the time consuming process to transfer and set up two accounts from the closeout of the old accounts due to Jean Geary's death. Savings account balance is \$100.31. The General Account is \$2,033.34 as of August 9, 2012. Only one donation was made in 2011. Suggested donations to close out all accounts were recommended for discussion under New Business.

Raffle Committee Report: Jeanette Taylor and Glenda Baswell reported that the raffle prizes and current sold tickets appeared to indicate a very successful raffle and the resulting income will go to The Ninth Infantry Division Association, if we deactivate and merge. Since the Ninth is in need of funds due to the past situation they are very happy to report this news.

New Business: President Roz Gross and Janet Schnall informed the ladies of the newly merged association. Their new bylaws will allow spouses, widows and descendants full annual membership in the merged association. A merged organization will be a stronger force to carry out the organizations goals. If we accept the invite then the Ladies Auxiliary would need to be deactivated and if this occurs then a resulting question is what to do with the dollars in our treasury. This information resulted in the following two motions:

1. Motion by Janet Schnall, seconded by Thelma Solar to **deactivate** the Ladies Auxiliary, 9th Infantry Division and **accept the invitation** to join as **full members** of The Ninth Infantry Division Association as offered to us in the change of bylaws. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Donate to local charities in Pittsburgh: they are the Veterans Hospital in Pittsburgh, Veterans Hospital Altoona, and the WWII Local Memorial and the remaining \$1,000 to The Ninth Infantry Division Association, to increase their much needed funds. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

These two motions which passed by unanimous vote resulted in the deactivation of the Ladies Auxiliary, 9th Infantry Division and gave Treasurer Judy Goldsmith authorization to write checks for the approved donations and close out the two bank accounts.

President Roz thanked all for attending and making the decision to deactivate and join The Ninth Infantry Division Association. She commented that we all look forward to the merger and our future contributions and membership in this great association. She thanked all the members for their past hard work and contributions and closed with a reminder of the luncheon to follow and gave special thanks to Jane Mitchell for arranging the lunch with the Sheraton.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.
Jackie Armstrong, Secretary

FLORIDA CHAPTER

THE REUNION COMMITTEE: The search for a hotel command post for the 2013 Florida Chapter reunion has been made in Kissimmee, Orlando and Daytona Beach. In taking a sample from some of the members as to where they would like to have the next reunion, the choice was Daytona Beach. The lure of the Atlantic Ocean watching the waves hit the shoreline was one of the main reasons. Also, the preference is to have the reunion in October instead of April or May. The problem in negotiating with the sales people at the different hotels is the lack of attendance. Only 5 rooms were rented during the 2012 Silver Springs reunion. In order to get a low room rate, most hotels require a minimum of 10 rooms rented for 3 nights. Also, we may have to pay for the Hospitality Room unless we meet the quota. The reunion committee will keep you posted in subsequent issues.

Bit and Pieces From Our Members

Lila and H.F. Stansell are coping with their little aches and pains but doing okay. As Lila said "We go to church on Sundays, doctors on Mondays, and shopping on Tuesdays. The remainder of the week, we do house chores, watch some TV, have our meals, go to bed, say our prayers, thank God for another week, and wait for Sunday to do it all over again." Yes Lila, most of us joined the same club.

Charles Munger turned 90 years old in August. He was hospitalized for one month due to some over medication and again for 5 days due to old age as he put it. He is feeling much better at present and looking forward to attending our next reunion providing he can get one of his friends to do the driving. Charles lives in Englewood, Florida.

Herb and Jackie Frank of Orlando are doing okay. Jackie is controlling her coughing spells for which we were happy to learn. At the end of 2012 Silver Springs reunion, Herb asked whether he may have one of the big 9th Infantry Division signs that were displayed in the lobby of the hotel. We now learned that the sign that lists the 8 campaigns of the 9th Infantry Division, the Octofoil emblem and the Victory illustration is now on display in the VFW Post located on Edgewater Drive in Orlando. Thank you for the publicity. Herb and Jackie volunteer at the annual carnival sponsored by St. Charles Catholic Church. Herb stated that he will try to attend our next reunion with members of his family and perhaps with friends. (A good idea if every attending member bring a relative or a friend).

Faye Moser went on an 8 day Alaskan Cruise the first week in September. She toured Vancouver and the city of Victoria for a week, had a great time, enjoyed good weather and was fascinated seeing the Alaskan glaciers. We wish you many more enjoyable trips. "Ike" is with you in spirit 24/7. Continue being busy and keep in touch.

Paul and Eunice Crumb left Florida on the last week in August to visit their daughter who lives in Ithaca, N.Y. and returned to Ocala, Fla. home soon after Labor Day. They enjoyed their trip especially seeing the leaves turning bright colors. Paul and Eunice volunteer many hours at the American Legion in Ocala. Eunice works in the kitchen while Paul helps in the bingo games. This past June, Emil and Audrey met with them at the Veteran's Park in Ocala to celebrate Flag Day. The ceremony was very inspiring especially the bagpipe music. Ground breaking for construction of the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park was held on March 16, 1997. The park is located at 2501 SE Fort King St. in Ocala. Any chapter member visiting Ocala will experience a very sobering hour going through this wonderful tribute to our veterans of all wars.

Lt. Col. Ralph Williams turned 93 on September 19, 2012. Congratulations and many more. A family gathering was held at their Melbourne home where his wife Liz prepared many goodies for everyone. Lt. Col. Williams served in the 60th F.A. Bn.

(continued next column)

Joe King stated in his email that he is in good health and is keeping himself busy with all the clubs he belongs to. Since losing his wife last March, Joe is looking around for a woman replacement. We doubt he will have too much trouble matching up with a South Carolina beauty. Joe makes his home in Pelzer, S.C. News wanted: Please send in any news of events that you experienced which will interest our membership. Send it to: Emil J. De Donato, 3650 SW Mosswood St., Dunnellon, FL 34431. Email is mrdee82918@aol.com or phone 352-489-4070.

Sons and Daughters Auxiliary Annual Meeting Minutes Sunday, August 19, 2012 Sheraton Station Square Hotel Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The single item for discussion was to prepare and vote on a motion to deactivate and merge the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary with The Ninth Infantry Division Association. This motion reflects and acts upon a vote taken by the Association on Friday, August 18, 2012, making any widow, spouse or descendant of a Ninth Infantry Division veteran eligible for regular annual membership.

With the motion to deactivate and merge with the Association, all persons eligible for regular annual membership may serve as officers, committee members and Board of Governors through an election or appointment process.

Janet Schnall made the motion to deactivate and merge the Sons and Daughters with The Ninth Infantry Division Association. The motion was seconded and approved with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned when no further formal business was brought forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Irwin, Secretary

67th Reunion Board of Governors and Business Meeting Minutes

216th Board of Governors Meeting August 17, 2012 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The 216th Board of Governors meeting was called to order by President Joseph Maiale at 3:30 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for fallen comrades.

Board members in attendance were Joseph Maiale, Dr. Martin Gross, Russell Bellanca, Paul Schumacher, Lawrence Kaufman, Henry Geary, Clarence Ray. In addition past board member Herbert Stern and William Sauers, Provisional Treasurer also attended.

Discussion took place regarding proposed changes to sections within Article II an Article IV of the Association bylaws. The changes in both sections redefine membership qualifications and membership categories. Changes for Article II propose that any widow, spouse, descendant or Vietnam era veteran who wore the Octofoil insignia and served honorably in the 9th Infantry Division is eligible to become a Regular Annual Member of the Association. Dues owed for Regular Annual Membership is \$15.00 per year.

In Article IV, the additional category of membership as an Associate Member includes friends of 9th Infantry Division members, U.S. citizens and European friends. The proposed dues for Associate Members is \$10.00 annually. Associate Members will have none of the rights or privileges of membership.

A motion was made to accept the changes in the bylaws and was seconded and passed. With no further business brought forward, a motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Irwin, Secretary

Minutes of the 67th Business Meeting

August 18, 2012

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The meeting was called to order by President Joseph Maiale at 1:40 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the traditional moment of silence for fallen comrades.

This meeting was open to all veterans, wives, sons and daughters in good standing as a member of the Association. William Sauers read the minutes from the 66th Business Meeting held in New Orleans and President Maiale's motion to accept was unanimously approved.

Finance William Sauers presented the financial report, opening the discussion with an explanation of the past year's complex fiscal history, account balance details and current fiscal situation. Beginning in the last quarter of 2011, a legal investigation of Association bank statements and other financial documents reveled and confirmed that gross mismanagement of Association funds had been occurring for some time under the watch of the previous Secretary-Treasurer. At times during FY 2012 (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012) the Association's checking account balance, nearing non-sufficient funds status, was unable to cover the initial hotel deposit for the 2012 reunion as well as funding for other project expenses. Of current concern, a final payment in the approximate amount of \$26,000.00 due to the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel (2011 reunion) still remains unpaid.

Several corrective actions were taken to contain and prevent further losses. President Maiale make immediate changes to personnel by appointing William Sauers to the position of Provisional Treasurer. Accounting methods were upgraded and enhanced to provide absolute transparency and documentation for every transaction. In January of 2012, action was taken to merge the checking accounts of the Association and the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary together, creating one single account from which The Ninth Infantry Division Association conducts business. William further explained that all revenue coming into the Association is now deposited into the single account and posted using sub-account descriptions. Accordingly, all outgoing expenses are posted using the same sub-account categories. The sub-account balances are then used to verify the total balance available in the account at any given time.

The sub-accounts and descriptions are as follows:

- 1 General Funds Account
- 2 Subscriptions
- 3 Octofoil Library Project (OLP)
- 4 Memorial Fund/Tip of the Hat
- 5 Friends of Father Connors Fund
- 6 Reunion Account

The Provisional Treasurer highlighted the importance of all members making a notation in the memo section, i.e. General Account, Subscriptions, Reunion Account, and so on, on all checks made out to **The Ninth Infantry Division Association**.

The long standing issues with CGM Funds have been resolved with little difficulty. Access to records and funds was granted by CGM when President Maiale and William Sauers became principal signatories in the first half of 2012. The Association owns 719 shares of CGM. Dividends on those shares are being reinvested instead of taking a cash payout as done in the past.

Looking forward to FY 2013 (July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013), the Provisional Treasurer detailed some positive news regarding our financial situation. At the time of this business meeting, our 67th annual reunion in Pittsburgh has been completely paid for. All invoices and payables for hotel catering, function space, special events and entertainment invoices have been processed and paid. A small balance due to the hotel in an amount of \$150.00 or less is expected at the conclusion of the reunion to cover minor incidental expenses.

(continued next column)

The legal investigation into the previous Secretary-Treasurer's financial mismanagement uncovered a Nationwide Insurance policy purchased by the Association in 2011 and still remains in force. There are indications that the Association's NSF debt to the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel may be partially or wholly resolved with funds paid from this insurance policy at the conclusion of the District Attorney's investigation.

Although the Association had almost lost its tax exempt status due to failure to file in 2008 and 2009, we have regained our good standing status as a 501(c)19 organization with IRS. As our financial health returns, we need to be mindful that even a tax exempt organization is liable for taxes if account balances exceed \$50,000.00.

Finally, at this year's Ladies Auxiliary luncheon and business meeting, a vote was taken to merge all activities and funds with the Association. Ladies Auxiliary President Roz Gross stated that a check made payable to The Ninth Infantry Division Association would be sent to the Treasurer at the conclusion of this reunion.

This concluded the finance discussion lead by William Sauers. The motion to accept the Provisional Treasurers report was made and accepted unanimously.

Organizational Structure/Committees President Maiale opened the discussion for the nomination of Officers and Committee chairs. A motion was made to extend the terms of Joseph Maiale as President, William Sauers as Treasurer and Clare Irwin as Secretary of the Association. This motion was seconded and approved. The following nominations were made from the floor: Peggy Sabato, 68th Reunion Committee Chair Philip Bosko, Finance Committee Chair Kathy Tapelt, Membership Committee Chair Terry Barnhart, Memorials/Plaques Committee Chair John Baswell, Bylaws Committee Chair Jane Mitchell and Theda Ray, Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs John Sabato, Nominations Committee Chair Glenda Baswell and Jeanette Taylor, Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs

The floor accepted the nominations, all were seconded and passed.

Worcester Memorial William Sauers and Philip Bosko reviewed the work needed to restore the Worcester Memorial structure located on the grounds of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Worcester, Mass. An estimate for the repairs in the amount of \$23,000.00 has been received. Philip stated that we may see an additional 10 - 20 percent added to this cost due to the significant amount of structural work that needs to be done. He added that efficiency and longevity should be the goals of this restoration.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Worcester Memorial construction dedication. Special plans are being made to honor and celebrate the sacrifices of our veterans on Sunday, November 11, 2012. For more information, contact William Sauers at [REDACTED]

With no further business on the agenda at 4:00 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Irwin, Secretary

**217th Board of Governors Meeting
August 19, 2012
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

The 217th Board of Governors meeting was called to order by President Joseph Maiale at 12:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for fallen comrades.

Attending the meeting were Joseph Maiale, Dr. Martin Gross, Russell Bellanca, Clarence Ray, Paul Schumacher, Henry Geary, past board member Herbert Stern, and William Sauers.

President Maiale opened the meeting with a discussion concerning Article V in the Association bylaws. The Article states that the Board of Governors will consist of a total eleven (11) Association members. Currently the Board of Governors does not meet that criteria. It is anticipated that the current and future vacancies will be filled with the sons and daughters that are now Regular Annual Members of The Ninth Infantry Division Association. The Board reached a consensus allowing the current vacancies to remain unfilled for the period of one (1) year. The vacant Board of Governors positions as well as any other Association leadership positions are to be filled at the 2013 reunion.

William Sauers reported that the Memorials Committee is studying the declining physical structure of the Worcester Memorial, located on the property of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Memorial structure was established by Father Edward T. Connors in 1962. This year a 50th anniversary rededication is being planned for November 11, 2012. Immediate and much needed cosmetic upgrades will be completed in time for the celebration, thanks to donations to the Friends of Father Connors Fund in the amount of \$6,000.00.

President Maiale appointed Clare Irwin to the position of Association Secretary.

With no other business brought forward, a motion to adjourn the formal meeting at 12:20 p.m. was seconded and passed.

The meeting was immediately followed by a group interview by David Templeton of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. The article can be found at: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/though-fewer-world-war-ii-veterans-in-pittsburgh-region-reunite-649664/>.

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Irwin, Secretary

(Treasurer Report...continued from page 2)

**Income/Expense Statement
August 23, 2012 to June 30, 2012
Combined Sons & Daughters and Association Accounts**

	-1 Acct. Gen. Fd.	-2 Acct. Octo.Subs	-3 Acct. OLP	-4 Acct. TOH	-5 Acct. FFCF	-6 Acct. Reunion	Totals
Income	\$1,919.71	\$6,179.84	\$665.00	\$960.00	\$4,437.44	\$28,662.00	\$42,823.99
Expense	\$1,086.88	\$2,700.95	\$95.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,825.00	\$7,708.25
Cash Balance	\$832.83	\$3,478.89	\$569.58	\$960.00	\$4,437.44	\$24,837.00	\$35,115.74

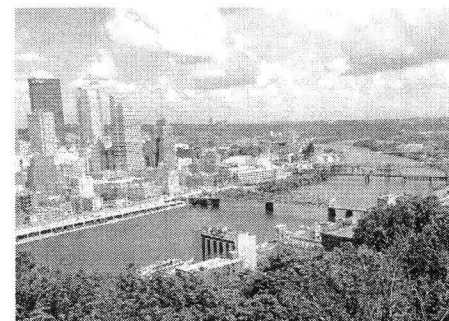
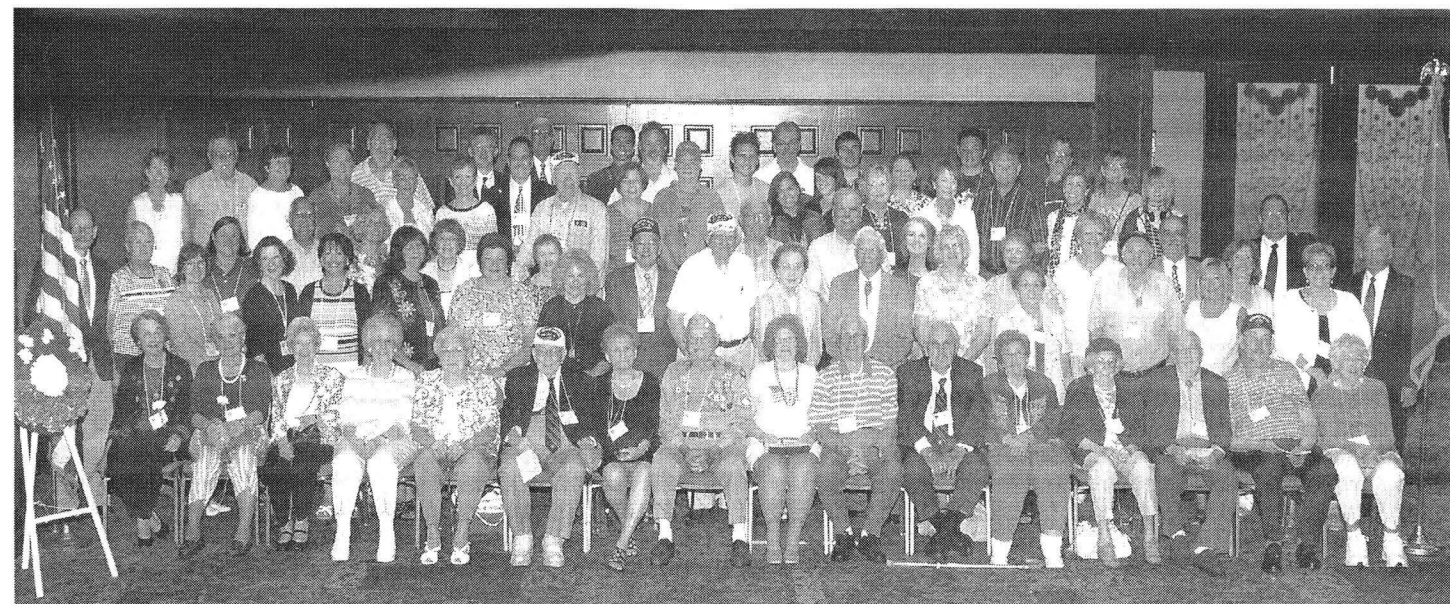
CGM Fund Investment History

Date	End Bal.	# Shares
01/30/12	\$19,333.91	719.000
02/01/12	\$19,664.65	719.000
02/14/12	\$19,909.11	719.000
04/30/12	\$20,096.08	719.516
05/04/12	\$19,585.23	719.516
06/29/12	\$18,865.71	719.516
07/27/12	\$18,671.44	719.516

Income/Expense Statement -6 Sub Account

	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	Total
ACTUAL INCOME	28,662.00	13,937.84	42,599.84
ACTUAL EXPENSES	3,825.00	37,954.91	41,779.91
ACTUAL BALANCE	24,837.00	(24,017.07)	819.93
ACTUAL EXPENSES			
Sheraton Initial Deposit	500.00	-	500.00
Sheraton - 137 Room Night Charges	-	18,585.42	18,585.42
Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise	2,900.00	-	2,900.00
Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise (Final Payment)	-	2,149.01	2,149.01
Refunds (Overpaid/Cancellations)	425.00	2,465.96	2,890.96
Reunion Programs Printing/Postage	-	218.31	218.31
Memorial Wreath	-	225.00	225.00
Projector/Screen Rental	-	150.00	150.00
Friday night buffet dinner	-	1,497.19	1,497.19
Friday Keg of Beer	-	320.00	320.00
Friday night Microphone Charges	-	42.35	42.35
Saturday Breakfast	-	2,178.00	2,178.00
Memorial Service - Microphone	-	42.35	42.35
Sunday Breakfast	-	2,608.76	2,608.76
Sunday Cocktail Hour	-	1,715.68	1,715.68
Sunday Dinner Microphone Charges	-	42.35	42.35
Sunday Banquet Dinner	-	3,720.97	3,720.97
Monday Breakfast	-	2,404.88	2,404.88
Raffle Ticket Packs - Glenda Baswell	-	15.92	15.92
Ink Cartridges - Joyce Schumacher	-	72.76	72.76
Sheraton Initial Deposit Offset to Food and Beverage Charges	-	(500.00)	(500.00)
Total Actual Expenses	3,825.00	37,954.91	41,779.91

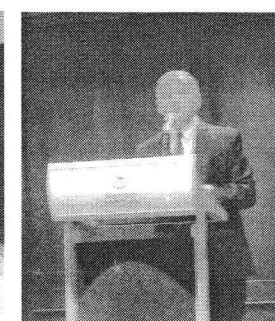
**67th Annual Reunion Memories
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**



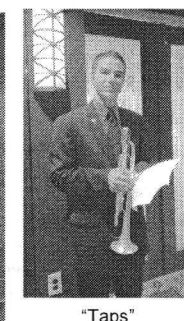
Our hotel location - center foreground



Bagpiper, Tom McLaughlin and West View VFW Post 2754 Color Guard



Rev. Tom Hall
First Presbyterian Church



"Taps"
Joey Lenhart
North Allegheny
High School



Head Table



Major General James A. Hoyer -
Guest Speaker and Clarence Ray



Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon



West Virginia National Guard Army Band - Col. Tom Golf, Band Master



Mack and Mary Kay Darr
enjoy the river cruise

**Doug Schramm
Mindy Reynolds**

We're writing to you with an update on a member of The Ninety's Club - our father, Harold Schramm, who turned 93 in March.

Dad is doing well for his age, and still lives in his own home in New Milford, New Jersey - the place he raised his children and where he has lived for more than sixty years! Dad married our mother, Cliphier Lindstrom Schramm ("Cliffie") in March 1942. She died in December 2008; they shared 66½ years together. Dad still misses her terribly.

Douglas and dad's two grown grandchildren, Erika and Alex, live in New Jersey, not too far from dad. Mindy lives in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia with her husband, The Reverend Charles Reynolds (a retired Marine Corps officer). We all try to visit as often as possible; Dad still enjoys a good meal, spending time with relatives, and visiting with friends. He and Charles tease one another and maintain a good-natured "Army/Marine" rivalry.

Dad is exceptionally proud of his beloved Ninth Division, and often reminisces about the fine men with whom he served and the experiences they shared. On behalf of our entire family, we hope you will allow us to say how proud we are - not only of our father, but of all those who served in the Ninth Infantry Division; you truly are, and always will be, our country's "Greatest Generation."

We have attached a picture of Harold taken on Easter Sunday 2012.

Respectfully,
Doug Schramm and Mindy Reynolds



**French Legion of Honor Medal
Andrew Balaschak
1st Platoon, D Co.,
39th Infantry Regiment**

On March 10, 2010 I was awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal, scroll and pin at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The following is a short resume:
Age 83, married 64 years, 14 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren. S/Sgt., machine gun platoon. Campaigns-Tunisia, Sicily, Northern France, Normandy,

Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe. Awards-Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, with oak leaf, campaign medal with seven bronze stars. Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, Occupation of Germany Medal, and the French Legion of Honor Medal, scroll, pin. Purple Heart Medal with oak leaf.

Name included in The World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., included in the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Past Deputy Regional Director, Vigo Caravan #151, V.F.W. Post #155, Johnstown, Pa. The Ninth Infantry Division Association beginning in 1945.

I retired in 2005 after 55 years in Architecture doing schools, hospitals, universities and other projects.

Someone asked me "What does it feel like facing the enemy?" My response was "experience it first hand." Remember the 4581 9th Division lives who fought for our freedom.

My wife, Ethel, and I are the parents of 4 daughters and 3 sons.

Signed, Andrew Balaschak

NINTH RECON

By John Bonkowski

It's very lonely without my Beloved Rose, and I'm lost without her. With all my Faith, all those memories, wonderful family, and all our friends that she left me with, I'll try to find my way.

My deep appreciation for the kind words from Ruth Victor who called from Georgia as soon as she and Wally received their Octofoil. Tom Saunders also called and expressed his kind thoughts. He informed me the sad news about our National President, James Dawson who will be missed. Jim was a longtime Michigan Chapter member from the time it was known as the Detroit Chapter. We'll never forget the great meetings that he and Edith hosted at their friendly bar on the West side of town. Now they are both gone, but not forgotten.

Our best wishes go out to our National Vice President Tom Hutton who replaced Jim Dawson as our new President. Tom is also a dedicated Michigan Chapter member. I remember the time back in 1970 when he and Gerrie attended their first meeting at the friendly Walker's bar on the East side of Detroit. On that occasion, Fred and Jane Josey along with Don and Helen Lewis also made their first meeting. Since then, Gerrie, Fred, and Don have passed away, and only memories remain.

More sad news came with Secretary Marge Wisniewski's newsletter informing us about the loss of Jane Young earlier this year. We just mentioned how nice it was to see her at the chapter picnic last August at Mary Doering's place in Alto, Michigan.

Another chapter picnic is soon coming on July 7th. This time it will take place at Secretary Marge Wisniewski's home outside of Richmond, Michigan, where we've enjoyed many gatherings in the past. I'll try to attend, but I'm not sure. I get choked up just thinking of going anywhere without my Rose. At this late date I haven't even made a reservation for the National Reunion in Grand Rapids that will be held so close to home. Even the Memorial weekend in Worcester, Mass. Isn't circled on my calendar. As much as I would like to be there, especially with our close friends Henry and Theresa Shimkoski, I honestly don't know if I could make it without her. Normally all these dates would have been reserved by now, and how she was looking forward to these get-togethers.

So far we haven't seen that stranger who served in the Ninth during the Vietnam War, with whom I had that chance meeting after Mass back in February. Neither have we heard from anyone since it was mentioned in our previous column.

Not that I don't appreciate the new Editor's effort in trying to keep the Octofoil coming, but I'm from the "old school," and traditions mean a lot to me. So I go along with the sentiments expressed by Danny Quinn. We're grateful for all the years that he kept us together with the old Octofoil and carefully guided our Association. Then what a wonderful job Joe Killen did when Danny couldn't carry on any longer. To say that I don't miss the old Octofoil with Danny Quinn and Joe Killen's dedication would be a lie.

Respectfully,
Signed John Bonkowski

(Ed. Note: The above report should have been published in the Apr.-May-Jun., 2007 issue. Mr. Bonkowski recently provided a copy for publication)

SEEKING INFORMATION

Warren Robinson

I am seeking information regarding Paul King who lived in Wheeling, West Virginia and served in B Company, 47th Infantry Regiment.

I have a story to share with either him or a member of his family. If anyone has any information about Paul please contact me as soon as possible.

Thank you. Signed, Warren Robinson

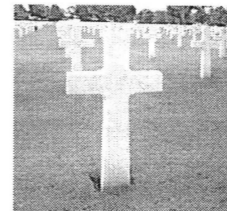
For fallen buddy, fate finds Bridgton World War II veteran

Photo special to The News, Victor Sleeth's grave.

His name was Victor Sleeth Jr. He was a squad leader with Co. B, 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. Co. B was at the Remagen Bridge when Allied troops crossed the Rhine River in 1945. They lost a ton of men. The Germans were delivering murderous fire from the bluffs above. The Allies had stopped the Germans from crossing the bridge. Then the Germans stopped the Allies from doing the same thing. Death was everywhere. "I came across a GI hidden by leaves," recalled Warren Robinson, of Bridgton. "All I could think of was he had died alone. I broke down and cried."

Robinson was in Sleeth's squad. Both had come up as replacements, Robinson as a volunteer when he learned that his older brother had been killed in the war. "I knew Sleeth for about three months," said Robinson, then 21 years old. "He talked a lot about his handicapped sister and how he was going to go home and help his parents take care of her." They agreed that if either didn't make it home, the other would contact the other's relatives. And that's what happened.

The company went through hell. They came to the first town and Robinson holed up in a house with another GI. "Want some sardines?" he asked Robinson. "I don't eat sardines." The GI opened the door and stepped out and a shot rang out. "It was the first time I saw a man die," Robinson said. Later, the autobahn needed to be secured to stop the flow of German traffic. "We were in a ditch by the side of that road and shells were bursting all over," said Robinson. The first man was ordered "up and over" the road. Machine gun fire cut him down. The same thing happened to the second man. Then he heard, "Robinson, up and over!" "Wait a minute," said a combat veteran.

"Robinson, you direct all your fire at where you think the machine gun is in the hedges and they'll duck down." The veteran scrambled across the road. Then he did the same for Robinson. They made it to another town. "I'm going out to scout and take the radio with me," said a GI to Robinson. "You count to 10 and follow. That way, if I'm hit, you can retrieve the radio." Robinson later found him on the ground, his head a mass of blood. He retrieved the radio. He zigzagged to a house in the next town and busted through a window. His lieutenant was already there. "Watch next door," he told Robinson. "There's a German in there." The lieutenant stepped out the door and a German threw a hand grenade. Robinson began shooting at every window in the house next door, and the wall. "I finally went over and found the German dead," he said. "It was the first man I ever killed." The Germans were everywhere. Later, at a fire break, they were waiting. They waited until Robinson and his men were in the open, then opened machine gun fire. Sgt. Victor Sleeth Jr. was the first one hit. "He should have sent out a scout," said Robinson. "But he did all the dangerous stuff himself." It was suicide.

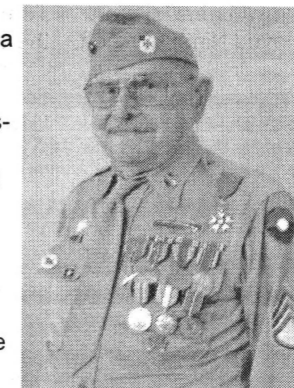
(continued next column)

"One man was hit in the neck and the bullet came out between his shoulder blades, and he was cussing the Germans. "Another wounded soldier was crying for his mother." They lost 15 men. Robinson's foxhole buddy, Sleeth, was dead when he hit the ground. It was April 1, 1945. He wrote Sleeth's family in Chicago. The mom wrote back. Sleeth was buried in Holland.

Monday night, Robinson's phone rang in Bridgton. It was Rob Pijenburg calling from the Netherlands. He was hard to understand until Robinson heard "Victor Sleeth." Pijenburg's family had adopted Sleeth's grave. He had gone on the Internet finding out as much as he could about Sleeth. It led him to Robinson's memorial to Sleeth online. And, finally, to Robinson.

"The hair on my arm stood up," said the 88-year-old veteran. "What are the chances, 67 years later?"

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French Legion of Honor Medal

On August 10, 2012, at the VFW 360 in Mishawaka, Ind., George Minarik was presented the French Legion of Honor Medal. U.S. Congressman Joe Donnelly did the presentation at 1:00 p.m. in a ceremony that started by the reading of a letter from French Ambassador and a speech. The medal was pinned on George Minarik's uniform. After this was the presentation of the French flag and the playing the French Anthem. Next, were the presentation of the American flag and the playing of the National Anthem. The ceremony ended with the playing of a medley of the

branches of the military. Members of the audience walked up to salute and shake the hand of Mr. Minarik as their branch of the military was playing. Mr. Minarik thanked everyone in a small speech advocating the importance of our military and support for our troops.

Cake, punch and coffee were served to all guests.

There were two television stations at the ceremony. It was played on the evening news casts on the same day on both stations.

Signed, Nona Hutchins, daughter

**Jack R. Dauner, Ph.D
Pinehurst, N.C. 28374**

This is a story written from the Army hospital in Liege, Belgium, a couple of days after I was wounded in combat on December 11, 1944. The story was included with a letter written to my parents, Bill and Pauline Dauner who were living in Dubuque, Iowa. At the time I was serving as a replacement in Co. K, 60th Inf., 9th Division, up in the famous Huertgen Forest, one of the bloodiest battle sights during the war.

Dear Mom and Dad: Just a note of explanation. The enclosed is a story of something which happens every day on what the military calls "the front." I sat down and wrote this a couple of days after the incident that it describes. The facts were still very clear in my mind. I imagine they always will be the rest of my life. Love to both of you. Jack

God Grant We Won't Forget
December 11, 1944 - Germany

It's five o'clock in the morning. Darkness still blankets the cool December atmosphere. Down in the basement of a bombed out building, hurrying figures busily work under the flickering glow of flame boxes giving forth their smoky, heavily carbonated light. Around the old stove some of the men are heating a quick cup of coffee - others C rations of meat and beans. Here and there other GIs are cleaning ammo and rifles. Packs are being carefully made, and everything is discarded except the very essential. Time

(continued on page 15)



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
Corrected and Amended 13 July 2011
Corrected and Amended 17 August 2012



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 — Any widow, spouse, or descendant of the above named veterans in Section 1 is eligible to become a Regular Annual Member in the Association.

Section 4 — Any Vietnam era veteran who wore the Octofoil insignia, and served honorably in the 9th Infantry Division from 5 August 1964 to 7 May 1975 is eligible to become a Regular Annual Member in the Association.

Section 5 — Friends of 9th Infantry Division veterans and/or The Ninth Infantry Division Association members are eligible to apply for Associate Member in the Association. This membership category includes U.S. citizens and European friends.

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 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, NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

Section 1 — The membership of the Association shall be divided into: Regular Annual Members, Associate Members. Any person eligible for Regular Annual Member or Associate 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 1 of the current year to June 30 of the following year, shall be entitled to rights and privileges of membership.

Section 3 — Current veteran Life Members will retain their status as Life Members. No new Life Member memberships will be offered.

Section 4 — The dues of an Associate Member shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) per year payable to The Ninth Infantry Division Association. The Associate Member shall not have rights or privileges of membership in the Association.

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(By-Laws...continued from page 12)

Section 5 — 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 6 — 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 appropriate membership card.

Regular Members \$2.00

Section 7 — 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.

Section 8 — Any member may at any time resign by notification to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 9 — Newsletter Subscription: All persons are eligible to subscribe to *The Octofoil*, the official newsletter of The Ninth Infantry Division Association. The newsletter is no longer a benefit of membership in the Association. Current Life Members, Regular Annual Members, Associate Members, Widows, Descendants, Friends, and the general public will subscribe by making payment of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per year payable to The Ninth Infantry Division Association. The subscription year is July 1 of the current year to June 30 of the following year and must be renewed annually. Payment must be sent directly to the office of the publisher/editor using the appropriate subscription form.

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 but 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, designate 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 1a — 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 1b — The Board of Governors' Option: If there comes a time where the Nominating Committee cannot find a nominee for President in accordance with Article VIII Section 1a, the Board of Governors shall extend the term of the President-in-office one additional year, to serve until the next reunion.

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.

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.

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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 except when the Board of Governors' Option is exercised as described in Article VIII Section 1b.

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 bylaws 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.

Section 2 — The Board of Governors shall appoint a Bylaws Committee consisting of volunteer Association members and specially appointed representatives of the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary National Officer. The Bylaws Committee will be charged with a review for amendment or change of a small portion of the bylaws, perhaps a section in a few Articles (not the entire bylaws). Membership on this committee will be on an annual rotating basis. Bylaws may be amended, changed or repealed upon a recommendation made by the Bylaws Committee to the Board of Governors at the annual meeting. The Board of Governors in their annual meeting shall vote up-or-down on the recommendation submitted by the Bylaws Committee. Also, Officers and Governors may propose minor amendments, changes and repeals to the Board provided the proposed changes shall have been given in a notice two weeks in advance of the meeting specified in Section 1.

Officers and Board of Governors

2012-2013

Officers

Joseph Maiale, President

Clare Irwin, Secretary

William Sauers, Treasurer

Board of Governors

Terms Expiring 2013

Paul Schumacher

Dr. Martin Gross

Russell Bellanca

Terms Expiring 2014

Joseph Maiale

Clarence Ray

Henry Geary

Newsletter Staff

William Sauers, Publisher/Editor, *The Octofoil*

Newsletter Staff Assistants

Jane Mitchell

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Therda Ray

(*God Grant We Won't Forget...*continued from page 11)

flies - then someone calls down that the hour to move out approaches. Belts are donned; then packs followed by bandoleers of precious ammo and grenades hooked conveniently on loose straps.

Everyone takes a last look at "home" for the past couple of days - then at each other. They know what that look means. It conveys a wish of good luck, success - of "thumbs up, old man - everything will be okay." And so, on to the street above. Would the 88's start now? Have we given our position away? The silence is broken only by a tank occasionally turning over its cold and sluggish motor. Streets are lined with mechanized equipment. We, the infantry, start to move. The familiar "get your five yard interval" is passed down the lines. Dawn is breaking as the columns move down on either side of the street, through the town and into the country side.

There before us is no man's land. Along the road are sights of recent battle. Tanks burned and helplessly knocked out. Dead animals with mutilated bodies. Dead GI's - American boys who had given their all and had paid the supreme price. A thousand thoughts run through each man's mind. Will this be my day? Will I soon be lying in a pool of my own blood like that Captain lying there in that blood stained ditch? Will I soon have a cavity in my head the size of a fist like that GI at the side of the road? Or will God somehow, somewhere forgive me for all of my sins and bless me with life throughout the day?

Packs are growing heavy. Sweat - beautiful beads of dirty sweat fill the brows of every man. The mission comes within sight. The crackle of a German MG fills the air followed by our own artillery which whistles overhead in salvos. It is music, sweat music. Then the drove of planes - P-47s and P-51s dart over like birds of prey. Sighs of relief can be heard in the column. Everything is clicking. It is up to us - the infantry - to move in for the ultimate kill. Somewhere, someone had looked at a map and decided that we should take such a position. Everyone works for the infantry up to a certain point and then the GI Joe must take over by himself and his team members. It is that period after he, the infantry, takes over that wins or loses a battle in the final analysis. The infantry must do the dirty work. It must do the sweating - its home is mother earth, and its tools are guts, guns and ground.

We move on. The first phase of the attack is ahead. We start
(continued on page 16)



THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership year July 1 through June 30

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

9-DIGIT ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Membership Fee: _____ Amount Due _____

Regular Annual Member (\$15.00 per year) _____

(9th Infantry Division WWII Veterans, Widows, Spouses,
Lineal Descendants, 9th Infantry Division Vietnam Veterans only)

Associate Member (\$10.00 per year) _____

(Friends, Historians, General Public, et al.)

Memorial Donation: In Memory Of, _____

Name(s) _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE _____

Make check payable to: The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Send to: William Sauers

Rev Aug. 2012

The Octofoil

Subscription Form

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

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Torrance, CA 90505-4104



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Return Service Requested



(God Grant We Won't Forget... continued from page 15)
across 800 yards of open field. Rifles start spitting hot lead. Two hundred, four hundred, six hundred yards we advance without a casualty. An MG is heard on the hillside. A platoon sergeant drops - DEAD! The rifles open up - BARs chatter and then all is quiet. We move on and the hill is taken. Two bewildered "supermen" walk out shaking like beaten dogs. We rest. Some smoke nervously - some chew on a chocolate "D" ration. Then the tanks move up and the inevitable German fire power begins firing at them. It is like watching a game of checkers. The German 88's are now trying to zero in. A flash of light - an explosion and we see one of our TD's in flames. A prayer goes out from every man that the guys in that sweat box will get out safely. They do and then we listen to the rhythmic sound of exploding shells within the tank inferno.

It's time to move. Cautiously we circle the hill - prisoners - wounded, shaking, shocked and speechless pass by. We go into the last phase of our mission. We push on - our fire power breaks loose - rifles barking shrilly in the crisp air. We move again - more prisoners file out. Our mission is taken - we've done it! But then - as if hell itself had broken the calm, the enemy exposes itself. Mortars - shell after shell - then more mortars rain on us. We are helpless. Bodies alive a few minutes ago lie flat on mother earth. More shells come and with each one brings a new cry for the medics. One by one brave men roll in anguish. A rifle cracks - a kid of 19 leans over to his buddy, asks for a drink and dies in his arms. More mortars - more wounded.

I lay there praying. My eyes closed, teeth clinched, jaws set ready for my time. I can feel myself under going the first phase of hell itself. I pray to God Almighty to give me faith, strength and courage. I want to run - to get up and run and let off steam, but I know this is sheer folly. I gather my wits together and start reliving the past. Everything good and bad that I'd ever done flashes before me. It is as if this is the time when the Lord above was tallying my good and bad deeds in an effort to see if I deserved to wear a halo or burn in the caverns of a living hell. I broke into a cold sweat. A shell bursts near me. I figure this is it. I hear the singing fragments but feel no sting of pain. I look at my field pack. It bears the jagged tears of shrapnel, and I am amazed to find the pack lying about three feet away from me.

Between bursts of shrapnel my buddy, a GI by the name of Hutta from Minnesota, and I would check to see if either of us had been hit. We built each others morale as much as possible - and then the barrage was over. We count heads and discover too many missing faces. We find a trench and eleven well shaken men jump in to take a smoke.

(continued next column)

Communications are nil. Here are eleven GIs, the remains of a platoon of forty seven. The shells come again, but we are safe this time. Then a German MG begins to fire in our direction and we realize that we are cut off. Eleven men against God only knows how many of the enemy. This is it and we all swear that we'll never be taken alive. Suddenly we spot some GIs. They are moving over toward us. Contact is made and we are spared again.

It is evening - reorganization is complete and we start the inevitable "digging in" for the night. Then the mortars begin again. We lay there motionless hoping and praying that no one would feel that sting and numbness of being hit. A shell bursts nearby and I feel a peculiar sensation in my foot, ankle and lower leg and realize that I have been hit. The enemy finally turns off his mortar fire - our artillery begins singing his song of death. A medic crawls over to administer sulfa to me and bandage my wounds. Darkness sets in and the password comes down to each foxhole. Night and the moan of a wounded enemy comes from the woods to haunt us. It is pitiful to hear, but this is one of those horrible things of war. Too many of our own men to care for so he must lie there and suffer. He is delirious now, but his groans of pain give us an eerie feeling.

Hour after hour of silence passes by. It begins to rain - an air of peacefulness sets over each of us. Silence! Rain! Mud! Oh God, when will this war ever come to an end? When will men cease killing each other so ruthlessly? Why must there be this needless suffering? They say that those men back there died for a cause - but think of what they could have lived for. Grant us most merciful Father that you will watch over those young men who have passed into your supreme realm this day, and please give us who remain the faith, strength and courage to someday, somehow make this world a world of peace and unity where a true spirit of brotherhood will henceforth rule. Silence! Mud! Rain! All is quiet on the Western front.

(Dr. Dauner states this "incident" took place near Konzendorf, Germany)