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The Octofoil, October/November/December 2014

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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Recommended Citation

Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, October/November/December 2014" (2014). *The Octofoil*. 395.
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The Octofoil

Oct.-Nov.-Dec.
2014

Volume LXIX, No. 4

President's Message



Greetings to our VIPs—that's all of the members and friends of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. I'm sure that all of you had a blessed holiday and enjoyed all of the good things this season had to offer.

This issue of *The Octofoil* is packed with information about the 70th Reunion to be held on July 24th through the 27th of 2015 in beautiful and historic Warwick, Rhode Island. That event is about 7 months away.

Yes, I know—filing Federal Income taxes is a high priority for everyone at the beginning of a new year. While you have this issue of *The Octofoil* in hand, fill out the application forms, write the checks, and mail them to the address indicated on the forms. This will clearly let Clare Irwin and her committee of dedicated people know that you plan to attend the reunion and here's my application.

To all members, especially to all veterans, please put on your thinking caps and write an article for *The Octofoil*. Then mail it to Jane Mitchell, Editor. It would please Jane immensely.

Paul Schumacher, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Association

History of the Octofoil

Shoulder sleeve insignias became official for all units after the first World War. These patches were worn on the left shoulder and each Division had its own patch. From the 18th of November, 1923, the 9th Division—with War Department approval—adopted the "Octofoil" as its patch. It was re-designated to the 9th Infantry Division on August 1st, 1942. The selection was a unique one as the design dated back to the 15th Century, when it was customary for each son to have an individual mark of distinction. "Octo" meaning "eight" is a bit confusing to many when speaking of the Ninth Division. The Octofoil went to the ninth son, symbolic of his being surrounded by eight brothers. The symbolism of the Octofoil makes it a logical and correct insignia for the 9th Division.

The design chosen for the Ninth Division patch consists of a red quatrefoil atop a blue quatrefoil with a white center.

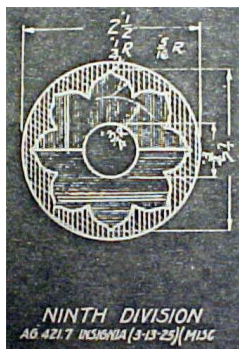
The red stands for the Artillery.

The blue stands for the Infantry

The white denotes the color of numerals found on Division flags.

Surrounding the Octofoil is a rim of Olive Drab—Symbolic for the U.S. Army.

Drawing for the 9th Infantry
Division's "Octofoil" patch
Institute of Heraldry drawing



The Octofoil shoulder patch



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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:

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**
Theda Ray

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[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted].com

The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc. is a registered 501(c)19 Veterans' Organization of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in January 1948. Contributions are tax deductible.

Volume LXIX Number 4 Oct., Nov., Dec., 2014

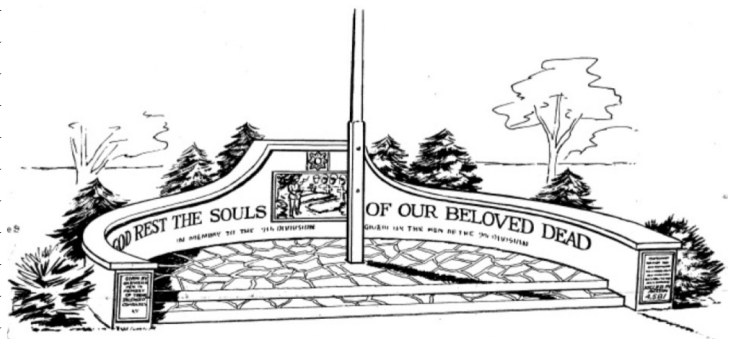
TIP OF THE HAT

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

Barbara Harris in memory of Walter Victor

Paul Schumacher in grateful remembrance of Ellen Schumacher on Nov. 6

If you would like to donate please make your check payable to:
The Ninth Infantry Division Association.
Please note in the memo section of the check "TOTH" and send to :**Mary Cooper,** [Redacted]



Friends of Father Connors Fund

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

Herb Stern

After all restoration costs have been paid (\$19,880) and the donation of \$300 to the Immaculate Conception Parish in October during The Ninth Infantry Division Association Memorial Service was made, the balance in the Friends of Father Conner Fund is \$202. Continued donations with be needed to maintain this beautiful memorial.

If you would like to donate please make your check payable to:
The Ninth Infantry Division Association.
Please note in the memo section of the check "FFCF" and send to :**Mary Cooper,** [Redacted]

WISHING EACH
OF YOU A
HAPPY AND
HEALTHY
2015!



**The Ninth Infantry Division Association
70th Reunion
Warwick, Rhode Island
July 24-27, 2015**

Greetings from the 2015 Reunion Committee and Rhode Island, The Ocean State. This year's reunion will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Crossings in Warwick, Rhode Island from Friday July 24th through Monday, July 27th. The Crowne Plaza is conveniently located less than 10 miles from downtown Providence and 2 miles from T.F Green Airport.

There are so many wonderful things to do in Rhode Island and so little time to do them! Our reunion activities begin Friday night at the hotel for dinner and time to re-connect with friends and family. On Saturday, we will travel by bus up to the Ninth Infantry Division National Memorial, located on the grounds of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Worcester, MA. While on-site, we will have the opportunity to participate in a Memorial Service as well as enjoy a catered dinner before returning to the hotel. Sunday offers our traditional Memorial Service, free time to explore the sights of The Ocean State and a banquet dinner in the evening. The reunion will conclude on Monday morning after breakfast.

The reunion events and activities (hotel room not included) will be a total of \$300.00 per person. A deposit of \$100.00 per person (\$50.00 non-refundable, per person) is due by March 1, 2015. Final payment MUST BE RECEIVED by June 1, 2015.

Again this year, we are offering an optional extension of the reunion for those who wish to stay until Tuesday. We are planning to travel to historic Newport, Rhode Island, taking in the unforgettable sights of Narragansett Bay along the way. Newport boasts the largest number of original Colonial buildings of any city in the country. It is also famous for mansions built in the 1800's by the wealthy and used only in the summer months, hence the term "summer cottages". And, Newport's magnificent harbor draws boats from around the world, confirming its reputation as a sailing capital.

Please check the box to indicate your interest in this optional trip in the registration form below. We will contact you directly with further information. The cost for this optional extension is yet to be determined as it is based on the number of individuals interested.

Hotel Reservation Details:

Our group room rate is \$109.00 + 13% RI tax per night. This discounted group rate is offered 3 days prior to and after the dates of the reunion. There are a limited number of rooms at this rate so please reserve your accommodations as soon as possible to take advantage of this.

The most convenient way to make your room reservation is to e-mail the Crowne Plaza reservations department directly at reservations@providenceri.crowneplaza.com. You may also reserve your room(s) online at www.CrowneHotelWarwick.com. The hotel's reservation department can be reached at (401) 732-6000. For guests requesting a toll free number, you may call (800) 227-6963; however, you will be served by a satellite office and not the hotel directly.

To receive our group rate, use the three letter code **NID** to identify your affiliation with the Ninth Infantry Division Association when making reservations with the hotel. Rates cannot be adjusted at check-in or check-out for guests who fail to identify their affiliation when making reservations. **Reservations must be made with the hotel before June 24th, 2015 to receive the above room rate.** After this date, the hotel will not guarantee this rate. Special room requests may be requested, but cannot be guaranteed.

Air Travel to Rhode Island

Providence TF Green Airport (PVD) - Distance to hotel: 2 MI

Boston – Logan International Airport (BOS) - Distance to hotel: 62 MI

Complimentary transportation to and from TF Green Airport is provided by the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings.

Automobile Travel to the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings, Warwick RI

From I-95 North take Exit 12, or from I-95 South take Exit 12A, bear right and the driveway is on the right.

From 295 take exit 2. Off Exit get into far left lane and turn left onto East Avenue, then turn right onto Greenwich Avenue bear right and the driveway is on the right.

Automobile parking at the hotel is complimentary.

(Please complete registration form on page 12)



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

9th Infantry Division Medal of Honor Recipients World War II

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
* Posthumous award

Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History

Vietnam War

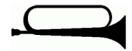
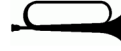
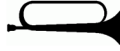
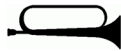
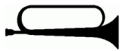
SGT Sammy L. Davis, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery; West of Cai Lay; 18 November 1967
SP4 Edward A. Devore, Jr.*, Company B, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry; Near Saigon; 17 March 1968
PFC James W. Fous*, Company E, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 14 May 1968
SSG Don J. Jenkins, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry; Kien Phong Province; 6 January 1969
SGT Leonard B. Keller, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ap Bac Zone; 2 May 1967
SP4 Thomas J. Kinsman, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Near Vinh Long; 6 February 1968
SP4 George C. Lang, Company A, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 22 February 1969
PFC David P. Nash*, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry; Giao Duc District; 29 December 1968
SP5 Clarence E. Sasser, Headquarters Co., 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ding Tuong Province; 10 January 1968
SP4 Raymond R. Wright, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ap Bac Zone; 2 May 1967
* Posthumous award

Sources: A Short History of the 9th Infantry Division and
www.homeofheroes.com

Walter Victor
L Co., 60th Inf. Regt.
and 709th Ord.

Lawrence T. Faulkner
E and F Co., 39th Inf. Regt.

William J. Voller
F and G Co., 60th Inf.



TAPS OBITUARIES

TAPS OBITUARIES



WALTER JOHN VICTOR L CO., 60TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Walter John Victor, 97, of Dawsonville, GA died on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 after a short hospitalization. Born in DuPont, PA he was the son of the late Frank and Agnes Victor. He is also predeceased by his son, Johnny Victor. Walter served in the US Army during World War II, landing in the 2nd wave on Utah Beach at Normandy. Walter received the French Legion of Honor medal in 2010 in appreciation for his wartime service. He was also with one of the first troops to liberate Dachau Concentration Camp. For 40 years, Walter was the official photographer for the Atlanta Braves. Twelve of his pictures are housed in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. He was a member of the Etowah Masonic Lodge where he was a Master Mason and received a 65 year apron. He also was an avid fisherman. Walter is survived by his beloved wife of 72 years, Ruth Victor of Dawsonville, GA; sons, Tony Van (Lynn) Victor of Hogansville, GA and Tommy (Mary) Victor of McDonough, GA; daughter, Ann-Margaret (David) Johnston of Gainesville, GA; daughter-in-law, Bobbi Victor of Smyrna, GA; brother, Frank Victor of Waterbury, CT; 6 much-loved grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held at 5:00 pm on Friday, October 17, 2014 in the chapel of McDonald and Son Funeral Home. Interment will follow at a later date at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA. Condolences may be expressed at www.mcdonaldandson.com.



LAWRENCE T. FAULKNER 1921-2014 E AND F CO., 39TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Lawrence Thomas Faulkner, 93, of Simi Valley, CA passed away on Thurs., Aug. 14, 2014 in Thousand Oaks, CA. Larry was born in Harlan Co., KY on June 9, 1921 to John and Myrtle Faulkner. He served 8 campaigns with the 9th Division, 39th Regiment in WWII and The Korean War, receiving two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars for gallantry in combat, three Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Legion of Honor, and the Ambassador of Peace Medal from South Korea. Larry was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, grave site 4212, section 64 near the Sept. 11th Memorial. The section is bordered by a street called Patton Drive. At a 9th Division reunion in Lancaster, PA in 2003, Larry was approached by Mike Fraticelli whose father was aboard the same ship, the USS Thomas Stone. The ship carried the 39th Regimental Combat Team as it was torpedoed on Nov. 7th, 1942 enroute to North Africa. Larry and Mike became close friends as Mike began producing the documentary feature, "North Africa 1942-43 Survivors' Stories," www.ww2survivorstories.com in 2007. In the following years, the story included a total of 55 interviews from all branches of service with a focus on the 9th Division. Red Phillips also provided commentary. An exciting re-creation portrayed Larry Faulkner (platoon leader E Co.), as he and a few foot soldiers carried an injured soldier, Gilbert Gricoksie to safety. The weary group endured constant mortar and artillery fire all the way down the hill using their



rifles as a gurney. E Co. suffered severe casualties. For his actions at El Guettar, he received a Silver Star. Larry went on to fight the remainder of WWII engaging in other acts of bravery, then again in North Korea. He remained active with VFW Post 10049 in Simi Valley, CA, where he made many good friends, some of whom paid their respects at Arlington on Oct. 2nd, 2014. Larry worked for 27 years as Watch Commander at Hughes Aircraft Co. and was chairman of "Forget Me Not" flower fundraiser for DAV Chapter 55, Simi Valley in 2011 and 2012. He was Grand Marshall of Simi Valley Days Parade in 2013. Larry was also "Veteran of the Year" in 2013 on Memorial Day. He was recognized for being a Korean War Veteran at Ronald Reagan Library in 2012, 2013 and 2014, and rewarded with "Larry Faulkner Day-May 27th". He is survived by wife Sue of 56 years of marriage, son, Lee and daughter, Kelly Faulkner-Hubina of Simi Valley, CA.

WILLIAM J. VOLLER

1917-2014

F AND G HDQTR. CO., 60th INFANTRY REGIMENT

Army retired Lt. Col. William John Voller, 96, succumbed to stage IV bone cancer and prostate cancer on November 16, 2014 while residing at Plymouth Place, a senior living facility in LaGrange Park, Illinois. Prior to living in LaGrange Park, Mr. Voller resided in North Riverside, Illinois for more than 60 years.

Born on November 30, 1917, Mr. Voller grew up in Cicero, Illinois as the second youngest of eight siblings: James, Barbara, Marie, Charles, Joseph, Lillian, and George. On account of his large family, Mr. Voller became an uncle to more than ten nieces and nephews.

Mr. Voller graduated from the Wilson Elementary School in Cicero in 1932 and the J. Sterling Morton High School in Cicero in 1936. Prior to the untimely passing of his father, Mr. Voller attended the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois for approximately one semester before he was called home to help support his family. In 1941, Mr. Voller earned a certificate from the Engineering, Science, and Management War Training Program at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT).

After learning military skills necessary for the war effort at IIT, Mr. Voller enlisted in United States Army in 1941 at the age of 23. Following officer candidate school, Mr. Voller earned the rank of Second Lieutenant in 1942, First Lieutenant in 1942, Captain in 1943, and Major in 1945. He resigned from active military service in 1946, but remained in the Army Reserve until November 26, 1977, when he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

For extraordinary acts of courage during World War II, including the D-Day invasion, French President Sarkozy appointed Mr. Voller to the rank of Chevalier (Knight) of the Légion d'honneur on July 27, 2011. A decorated veteran, Mr. Voller also received the Purple Heart Medal, Bronze Star Medal, and the Silver Star Medal—the third-highest military combat decoration and one that is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for valor and gallantry in action—from the United States, and the Croix de Guerre decoration from the French Republic.

Mr. Voller earned many of his military medals and decorations in 1944. At the time, Mr. Voller served as a Captain in the 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. On July 21, 1944, Capt. Voller was leading his company on an attack of Gourbesville, France, when they came under heavy enemy fire from a German army that was heavily entrenched on a hill controlling the town. Capt. Voller led a tank forward to overrun the enemy position until the tank was knocked out of action by German antitank guns. Next, Capt. Voller organized a flanking force and led it across a 200-yard exposed area to the German's right flank. Although Capt. Voller sustained a gunshot wound to his head during the process, he refused to leave the field of action and continued to maneuver his men while advancing on the German position. Finally reaching the German flank, Capt. Voller was wounded again, this time in the leg. While encouraging his men forward, a German sniper shot him a third time and wounded him in the back. Only then did Capt. Voller permit others to evacuate him from the battlefield.

Mr. Voller's acts of bravery were recorded in "Eight Stars to Victory," a book written by Joseph B. Mittelman and first published in 1948. More recently, The History Channel featured Mr. Voller in its 2009 production entitled "Patton 360°," a television documentary series that interviewed men who served with General Patton during World War II. As described in "Blood and Guts," the first episode of the documentary, Mr. Voller served with General Patton while Patton's troops pursued Rommel, the German Field Marshal, out of North Africa.

After the war, Mr. Voller procured a job at Templeton Kenly and Company in Chicago. The company later moved to Broadview, Illinois, and Mr. Voller started on the shop floor before climbing the corporate ranks and ending his career in 1978 as Vice President and General Manager of Commander Manufacturing Company, a subsidiary of Templeton Kenly and Company.

Mr. Voller's interests included the Boy Scouts of America. He was a volunteer leader of Troop 62 in North Riverside for several years, and was active in the West Suburban Council in La Grange, Illinois as a Regional and District Commissioner and Council Treasurer. For his years of dedication, the West Suburban Council honored Mr. Voller in 1983 with the Silver Beaver Award, a decoration awarded to adults who provided significant service to the council.

Mr. Voller was also active in the Civil Defense Program in the Village of North Riverside during the 1950s and 1960s. Mr. Voller attended and observed the civil defense activities in North Riverside grammar schools during that time.

Mr. Voller married Mildred Vicenik on July 3, 1948. William and Mildred had two children: William J. Voller, Jr. and Elizabeth Ann Voller. Mildred Voller passed in 2003 at the age of 82 and after 55 years of marriage. Elizabeth Ann Voller passed in 1984 at the age of 27.

Mr. Voller is survived by his son, William (Corilee Zaba), two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Photographs from
The Ninth Infantry Division Association Memorial Service
Immaculate Conception Parish
Worcester, MA
Sunday, October 19, 2014



Paul Schumacher, Clarence Ray, Joseph Petty, Mayor of Worcester,
Father Riley



Replacement of flag by Boy Scouts



Paul Schumacher and Clarence Ray at restored Memorial



Mosaic inlaid in Memorial



Crowd at Memorial Service



President Paul Schumacher and William Sauers

U. S. Veteran Shares his WWII Stories
by Aaron Howard, Jewish Herald Voice 7/3/14

Seventy-two years ago, Herb Stern embarked on a tour that would take him to North Africa and Western Europe. Stern didn't go there with a tour group. He went as part of the 9th Infantry Division of the U. S. Army, servicing in eight major World War II campaigns, including the D-Day landing at Normandy.

Stern, now 95, will lead a memorial service on July 13 at 10:00 a.m. at Holocaust Museum Houston, marking the 69th reunion of the 9th Infantry Division Association. The organization now predominantly is made up of sons and daughters of the original veterans. The main speaker will be Peter Berkowitz, chairman of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission.

The 9th Infantry was one of the first U. S. combat units to engage in offensive ground operations during World War II when it landed in North Africa. "I'm probably one of the few living veterans in the organization who goes back to the original landings in North Africa," said Stern from his Houston home. Sgt. Stern was drafted in summer 1941 and served with the 9th Infantry Division from September 1941 until July 1945.

In mid-October 1942, after initial training at Fort Bragg, Stern embarked on a 100-ship convoy without knowledge of where he was headed. He disembarked at the port of Lyautey (modern Kenitra) in French Morocco, where the landing was covered by the Battleship Texas. After three days of combat against the Vichy French forces, the American troops captured the Kasbah fortress and the local airfield. "We were stationed at Port Lyautey for about three months," said Stern. "We were then taken in 'forty and eights,' (freight car that, in World War I, held 40 men and eight horses) into the Atlas Mountains in Northern Morocco. There, we went into combat in the North African desert against the German Afrika Corps." Stern initially was assigned to the Medical Corps, "far from what combat was really about." At Port Lyautey, he was called into Army Intelligence.

"I was asked to work in 'detached service,'" continued Stern. "The assignment consisted of gathering information pertaining to the area we were fighting in, from map intelligence to interrogation. It was early in the combat. Many of us had never actually been in a combat situation. Fighting the Afrika Corps, we were up against a very professional army with a lot of combat training." There was another reason why Stern was called into Intelligence. He spoke fluent German and French. He was born in Berlin in 1919. The Nazis imprisoned his father in 1934 for violating a new law against taking German currency out of the country. Friends and family gave Stern's father the money to buy foreign passports to exit Germany. "Fortunately, my father knew a retired prominent jurist who assisted him to get out of Germany in August 1936. He saw me off when I was 16. I had family that I did not know, who had come from Germany to the U. S. in the 1840's. Their offspring vouched for me to immigrate to the U. S. It took me two years to get a Visa because of the restricted immigration policy and the anti-Semitism in the U. S. When I was about to graduate college, I was drafted and officially became a U. S. citizen."

The concept of field interrogation was still new, especially at that point in the war. "I'd be notified when we had a German prisoner, usually wounded and brought into an ambulance station," said Stern. "I specialized in interrogating wounded and shell-shocked prisoners who were more worried whether they'd be shot by Americans."

The 9th Infantry was part of the 2nd Corps and under the command of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower. Victory in Morocco opened a six-month campaign by American forces to liberate Tunisia from Nazi occupation. British forces simultaneously attacked from the eastern part of North Africa. The 9th was part of a two-pronged offensive that enveloped the port city of Bizerte, Tunisia in May 1943. "We had over 100,000 German prisoners," remembered Stern, commenting on the Nazi collapse in North Africa. "We were surrounded by millions of flies that covered everything. Then, we were assembled and told we were going to Sicily."

Stern landed outside Palermo and was taken by train to a small Sicilian seaside town. "We were in combat again in the mountains of Sicily, where we were involved until November when the Germans evacuated to Italy," said Stern. "From there, we were told the 1st and 9th Infantry divisions would be taken to England to train brand new troops, because we had combat experience. These trainees would eventually take part in the D-Day landings."

Stern was called into G-2 (Intelligence) headquarters and told he would spend two weeks at British Intelligence School in London. At the time, his father was living in London. So, instead of being billeted with the American soldiers, Stern was able to stay with his father.

"In the 10 days with British Intelligence, I learned methods that I wouldn't have dreamed about," recalled Stern. "We learned map interpretation, how to find French freedom fighters once we landed, how to accumulate information from prisoners and assess whether they are telling you the truth or lying, whether they are knowledgeable or not. Once I finished school, I became one of the 9th Division trainers that were sent all over England. I gave talks on intelligence methods, passing the information I had learned on to people who were brand new units."

Stern took part in the Normandy invasion, landing on Utah Beach, near the famous town of St. Marie Eglise, on the fourth day. "When I jumped off the landing, they dropped us off in water up to my stomach," said Stern. "There was no shooting going on when I landed. I came to an area where a number of combat troops had tried to land by gliders. There were parachutes hanging from branches of trees and abandoned in the fields. I used one to line the foxhole that I dug."

"Most of the people I initially interrogated were Poles who spoke German. They were from a part of Poland that had been occupied by the Germans, and they were eager to give us as much information as possible. As we went further, I was more involved in the forward stations close to the combat area. The stations were staffed with medical officers (doctors) and medics who performed the first



stage of triage and stabilization. They treated both Germans and Americans.

As we went through villages, I tried to find resistant fighters who had specific knowledge of things. You had to befriend them quickly. Normandy is agricultural fields surrounded by hedgerows (*bocages*). Your enemy could be on the other side of a hedgerow, which were tall enough to hide a tank or artillery. Our division was involved in bottling up Cherbourg and the German 7th Army. The Germans counterattacked, but didn't succeed. It was very bloody, but we captured Cherbourg. It was a major victory, because we opened up the port and captured an entire German army."

Stern later was in the northern flank of Ardennes (the Battle of the Bulge) and in the first infantry unit to capture the Remagen (Ludendorf) Bridge, which connects the eastern bank of the Rhine River with the town of Remagen. It was the only major bridge that remained intact across the Rhine.

Stern was wounded twice, once during the Huertgen Forest campaign, when he was hit by shrapnel from a "tree burst" from German artillery, and once by shards from a plate glass window as the Germans tried to destroy the Ludendorf Bridge, two days after the Americans began crossing in March 1945.

In April 1945, Stern's unit was in the Sauerland part of Germany when they came across the slave labor camp at Nordhausen. "Our assignment was to fight the remnants of an elite German division that had moved into the Harz Mountains," said Stern. "We were motor marched in 2-ton trucks to that area.

We were coming up to a railroad yard when we saw these huge fins of a rocket mounted on railroad flatcars. We stopped and saw a well-camouflaged area with tracks going into a mountain tunnel. We went further and came across this camp in the immediate vicinity of the tunnel. There was no gate, just a road that went into the camp."

This was the site of the Nordhausen slave labor camp where the V-1 and V-2 rockets were produced. An estimated 20,000 slave laborers died at Nordhausen. "Most of the buildings were damaged. Lying on the ground, almost as if they lined up, were hundreds of skeletal bodies. Most of them had starved to death. In a concrete area that contained huge ovens, you could see bones of humans that had been burned there. We found a few people – Russian, French, Lithuanian, Romanians – who were still alive. We went into the village of Nordhausen, less than a mile away. We got the mayor to round up a bunch of people with shovels to dig trenches and bury the bodies. And, I took photos."

Stern wrote a history of the motor march and the liberation of the Nordhausen camp in 2012, at the request of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission.

"When people ask, 'Were you there on D-Day?' many don't remember the significance of the assault. It turned the tide of World War II," Stern said about his war experience.



(Reprinted with permission of the author, Don Stibitz. Part 7 of a 7 part series)

CONTACTING THE RUSSIANS

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

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

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

This patrol was made up of the third platoon, two tanks, a radio

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

The whole very large 1st floor was completely filled up with double bunks with hardly a space to go between them. By then, the Lt. had found a good place. He was driving an American Cadillac. He told me to get a car and we would split up the men and place them around the perimeter of the town in twos. I went back to the doctor's house and told him to give me the keys to that Ford. He started to complain, but gave me the keys.

I then told him to get a few people and scrape together some water and any food he could find and take it to the concentration camp and give some food to them. I would check later and if it wasn't being done I would have him hung. The people were coming in mass and asking questions, mostly if we were going to occupy the town. That would make them very happy.

The Lt. told me to go with him, we went up to the city hall and the Lt. went in and said to the Burgomaster, "I'll give you 20 minutes to get these people off the streets. We left and did some searching. A half hour later we went back to city hall. (continued on page 10)

Quarterly Report Ending 9/30/14 – (Summary Pages) from Mize Houser & Company**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES & EQUITY - INCOME TAX BASIS 9/30/14****Assets****Current Assets**

General Fund Cash	28,365
Octo. Subs Cash	7,655
OLP Cash	590
Memorial Fund Cash	2,380
FFCF Cash	202
68th-2013 Reunion Cash	6,686
69th-2014 Reunion Cash	4,280
70th 2015 Reunion Cash	(500)
Hotel Deposit	500

Total Current Assets	50,157	50,157
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Total Assets	50,157
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Liabilities and Net Assets**Net Assets**

Unrestricted Net Assets-Beg.	81,156
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Current Surplus(Deficit)	(30,999)
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Total Net Assets	50,157
-------------------------	--------

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	50,157
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STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - INCOME TAX BASIS FROM 7/01/14 TO 9/30/14**CONSOLIDATED**

	CURRENT QUARTER	%	YEAR TO DATE	%
Revenue				
General Fund Mem. Income	764	15	764	15
Octo. Funds Income	1,395	27	1,395	27
Memorial Fund Income	10	0	10	0
FFCF Donation Income	70	1	70	1
69th-2014 Reunion Income	2,650	50	2,650	50
Net Investment Income	369	7	369	7
Total Revenue	5,259	100	5,259	100
Expenses				
Postage Expense	329	6	329	6
Printing and Copies	229	4	229	4
Supplies Expense	288	5	288	5
Entertainment Expense	3,700	70	3,700	70
Accounting Expense	725	14	725	14
Food/Catering Expense	7,581	144	7,581	144
Insurance	300	6	300	6
Rent	625	12	625	12
Lodging	1,100	21	1,100	21
Memorial Services	900	17	900	17
Donations	600	11	600	11
Memorial Repairs	19,880	378	19,880	378
Total Expenses	36,257	689	36,257	689
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(30,999)	(589)	(30,999)	(589)



MAIL CALL

Hi, all of you wonderful 9th Inf. Division folks:

I wanted to get a note off to all of you to let you know how proud I am to be associated with such a wonderful group of people. I am only sorry that I was not aware of the organization many years ago as I would have been a regular attendee. I'm so glad that Denise had an opportunity to participate last year down at Charleston. She had planned to attend with me again this year; however, the good Lord had other plans for her as you all know.

First-my thanks and appreciation to Mary Cooper and Bette Prochaska who chaired the Reunion Committee and all of the members who helped with various committee assignments. You all did an excellent job in providing an interesting and stimulating program. The evening programs at the St. Arnold's Brewery and the George Ranch Historical Park were fun and well organized. The memorial service was carried out with dignity, and the playing of TAPS by the two trumpeters was outstanding-a truly beautiful service. Then...for those of us who participated in the visit to the George H.W. Bush Memorial Library at College Station, it was a long ride but an interesting opportunity to get a better understanding of an outstanding American who served his country very well, in several government positions-not the least of which was President of the United States of America.

Personally, having just achieved membership in the Ninety's Club, I want to thank all of you for accepting me in this fine organization and for the friendships I have developed over the past two years. I look forward to seeing you at the 70th Reunion wherever the committee ultimately chooses for a convention site. Have a great year and God bless all of you.

Very sincerely,
Jack R. Dauner

Hello,

I just received the information that the City of Remagen wants to make a celebration for the 70th anniversary of the capturing of the Remagen Bridge, on Saturday, 7 March, 2015. Mr Klee-man told me that I can invite American veterans and their family members for the ceremony. Maybe you can announce this date of the ceremony to your folks. More information will follow soon.

Kindest regards,
Albert J. Trostorf

Albert is the mayor of Merode, Germany and also an author/historian. He has been very helpful to Ninth Infantry Division Association members who have travelled to Germany to WWII combat sites.)

Florida Chapter Report

There will be no more Florida Chapter Reunions. With the demise of Paul Crumb, Herb Frank, his wife Jackie, Joe King and Lila Stansell during the past two years, compounded by members who are too sick to attend, there just is not enough participation to hold any future reunions

The Florida Chapter was started in 1981. During its tenure, the membership reached over 135 dues paying members. Florida Chapter Reunions were held every year and sometimes two reunions, one in the Spring and another in the Fall were held since 1981.

The Florida Chapter remains active through routine contact with members by telephone, e-mails and person to person meetings. Eunice Crumb met with Audrey and Emil at the Veterans Park in Ocala. Eunice, her son Russ and daughter Sandy went on a two weeks vacation in California, Oregon and Washington State. Her son Russ, got married in November. Paula Goven is feeling much better. Faye Moser sends e-mails describing her trips to interesting places. And so as we age, it becomes increasingly more difficult to meet with members and also to set up reunions.

It also becomes difficult to write a report when members do not send in any news. So if you went on a cruise, or celebrated an anniversary or anything that is news, please send it to Emil De Donato, [REDACTED]

(continued from page 8)

The Burgomaster was sitting in his chair and people were still all over the place. The Lt. grabbed the Mayor by the jacket and hauled him out of the chair. There was, what I think was a clerk nearby. He told the Mayor that he was no longer the Burgomaster and said to the clerk, "Can you get these people off the street in 20 minutes?" The clerk said, "Yes, sir", and saluted him.

He then told him he was the new Burgomaster, proceeded to kick him out of the office and told him he better not see him anywhere around here again. We went back patrolling and about an hour later, we came back to city hall and there was not one person on the street. It was about 6:00 when I got to our CP. I hadn't seen it before.

The minute I walked in, a very grand looking lady came toward me and introduced herself to me. She told me she was a correspondent for the London Office of the Chicago Tribune, and got caught up in Wittenberg and couldn't get out. I looked around and everything I saw was money. Expensive furniture, drapes, painting and on the table, there was a setup of unbelievable food, sandwiches, cake, fruit, scotch and other whiskey and wine.

Two of the guys came up with 2 cases of beer and asked to go back with me. We left, and it certainly was much more comfortable than sitting on the tank. However, can you imagine me driving a Ford between 2 Sherman tanks. This was still war time, so no lights, just the cat's eyes on the tanks. I had trouble seeing the tank in front of me. I wasn't worried about that one, but I sure worried about the rumbling tank behind me. He could have rolled over the top of me before he realized.

We made it back OK and would be off to England in the morning.

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70th Annual Reunion
July 24-27, 2015
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NAME _____ # IN PARTY _____

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STATE _____ ZIP _____

BEST PHONE # TO CONTACT YOU _____

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Make your check payable to the Ninth Infantry Division Association
and write "Reunion 2015" on the memo line of your check.

Send this registration form and a deposit of \$100.00 per person by March 1, 2015 to:

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YES, I AM INTERESTED IN THE OPTIONAL EXTENSION. PLEASE CONTACT ME AT
_____ WITH FURTHER INFORMATION.

If you have any questions, please contact Clare Irwin at _____

