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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, October/November/December 2015

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil

Oct.-Nov.-Dec.
2015

Volume L, No. 4

President's Message



In the April-May-June 2014 issue of *The Octofoil*, our past president Paul Schumacher suggested that the Association needed a slogan as we were entering a new era. I have been thinking about this idea, especially after having a conversation several weeks ago with our 2016 Reunion Coordinator, Arlene Silver. In effect she said if there is no reunion, then who would remember the men of the 9th? That comment struck a chord with me as we sons and daughters are taking a bigger role in the Association leadership. Therefore, I offer the following slogan idea:

IF WE DON'T REMEMBER, WHO WILL?
THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

And remember we will in 2016. The 71st reunion is shaping up to be another good event in Ft. Myers, FL on August 5 – 8, 2016. Additional information regarding the reunion can be found on page 3 of this issue. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us in Florida in 2016. A fund has been anonymously established to provide for hotel rooms for honored veterans with breakfast for two people for reunion nights (August 5th, 6th, & 7th) for up to ten (10) attending Ninth Infantry Division veterans, with priority given to WWII veterans. The benefactor hopes to encourage more veterans to attend the 71st Reunion.

On another matter, the reorganization sub-committee is making progress researching our IRS reorganization options. There will be more information on this topic for discussion in Florida.

Finally, our effort to attract new members from the Vietnam Era veterans is starting to pay off. I have communicated with several veterans from this era who have requested more information on our Association. We hope that they will attend the 71st Reunion and that we offer them new friendship and the comradeship that they seek in remembering their friends and fellow soldiers from the 9th Infantry Division.

Terry R. Barnhart, President
Ninth Infantry Division Association



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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.

Happy
New Year

THE OCTOFOIL

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The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

Send payment to: **Theda Ray**
Publisher, The Octofoil

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 L Number 4

Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 2015

TIP OF THE HAT

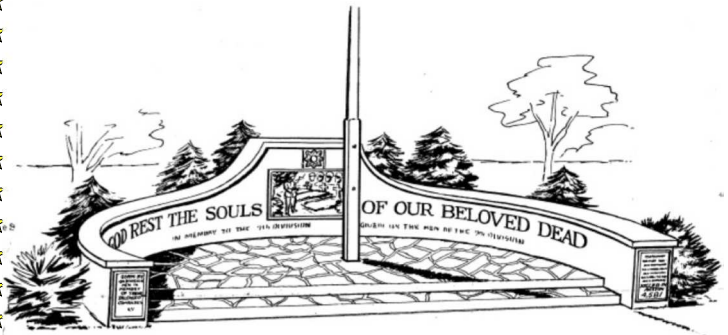
We thank the following members and friends for remembering the Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

Paul Schumacher— In fond remembrance of the wedding of Ada Ellen Huggins and Paul W.J. Schumacher in Memphis, TN on 23 June 1948.

Marilyn Martin—in memory of Michael Belmonte

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

Send to: **Mary Cooper**



Friends of Father Connors Fund

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

Janet Schnall, Barbara Deinberg, Andrew Gross
(children of Marty Gross, in his memory)

Kate Miller— in memory of Marty Gross

Sandra and Sterling Clarren— in memory of Marty Gross

Paul Schumacher—Hats off to the thousands in the Ninth Infantry Division who through foresight, moral goodness and considerable personal effort created the Ninth Infantry Division Association and built the Father Connor's Memorial.

Herb Stern

The current balance in the FFCF is \$659.61.
Continued contributions for maintenance and lighting expenses would be greatly appreciated.

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,

**71st ANNUAL REUNION
Crowne Plaza at Bell Tower
Fort Myers, Florida
August 5-8, 2016**

The 71st Annual Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association will be held in Ft. Myers, Florida. Make your plans now to attend and enjoy the west coast of Florida with a Caribbean flare.

The Reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza at Bell Tower which is conveniently located near restaurants, a movie theater and shopping. The cost of the Reunion and all of its events will be \$300 per person. **Please send a \$100 deposit per person (\$50 non-refundable) by May 1, 2016 with the balance due by July 1, 2016.** Attach the registration form with the deposit and mail to: Mary Blann Cooper, 11218 Timberline Road., Houston, TX 77043.

Reservations for hotel accommodations will be the responsibility of the attendees. Two hotel rates (double occupancy) will be available: Option 1—\$99 per night **with no breakfast included** (\$109.89 with tax). Breakfast buffet can be purchased at the hotel restaurant for \$10.95 per person. Option 2—\$109.00 per night (\$120.99 with tax) **includes** a breakfast buffet for two. Rooms can be reserved at the same discounted rate for several days before or after the Reunion dates if you want to enjoy more of the Gulf Coast and the surrounding area. **Call (239) 482-4668 for reservations** and mention that you are part of the **Ninth Infantry Division Association 71st Annual Reunion** to secure our special room rates. **Hotel room reservations must be made before July 6, 2016.**

If you qualify, as a veteran, for your hotel room to be paid for by the anonymous donor mentioned in the President's message, **you must still make your own reservation.** You will be contacted about reimbursement before the reunion.

Highlights of the weekend will include Friday night registration and a welcome meet and greet party with an informal Italian dinner. On Saturday, registration continues and the day culminates with a sunset dinner cruise. Roundtrip bus transportation will be provided. On Sunday morning we will have our Memorial Service with the annual Reunion Banquet in the evening. Monday morning we say good bye to new and old friends.

+++++

**Ninth Infantry Division Association 71st Reunion
Ft. Myers, Florida
August 5-8, 2016**

Names _____ # in Party _____

Street Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ Best phone number to contact you _____

Please make checks payable to **NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**. Write 2016 Reunion on the memo line and mail with this registration form to:

Mary Blann Cooper, [REDACTED].

Questions? Contact Arlene Silver: [REDACTED]



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

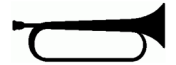
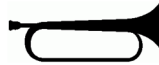
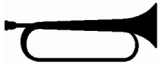
Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History

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

Martin M. Gross
Med. Det., 15th Eng. Btn.



TAPS OBITUARIES

TAPS OBITUARIES



MARTIN M. GROSS
MEDICAL DETACHMENT
15TH ENGINEERS BATTALION

Martin M. Gross, aged 98, passed away peacefully on September 14, 2015 in Edmonds, WA. He is predeceased by his loved wives Florence d.1995, Irene d.2002, and Rosalyn (Roz) d.2014 and was the beloved father of Janet (Bill) Schnall, Barbara (Richard) Weinberg, and Andrew (Linda Koenig) Gross, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

After receiving his dental degree, Martin joined the US Army in 1941 prior to Pearl Harbor and served proudly as Captain, Ninth Infantry Division, 15th Engineers, Medical Detachment, seeing action in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. He was recipient of many medals, including the Purple Heart, 2 Bronze Stars, and most recently the French Croix de Guerre. He also was a long time member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, serving as President of the national organization and as a member of its Board of Governors many times, President of the New York Chapter as well as President of the Florida Chapter. He enjoyed attending almost every annual reunion to mingle with his fellow soldiers and did so from the end of WWII up until 2 years ago when he could no longer travel to the sites. His wife Roz also served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary for its final 2 years (2010-2012), and his daughter, Janet, is currently on the Board of Governors of the Association.

Martin lived a full and happy life. He practiced dentistry for over 50 years, loved to play bridge and golf, and especially loved history and travelling with his family.

When Martin was 90 years old, his daughter, Janet, and her husband took him and his wife, Roz, to Normandy to visit Utah Beach in France. He had never wanted to go earlier as he said he lost too many compatriots there. As other veterans visiting Normandy have found, he was treated as an honored guest by the French as well as Belgians, British and other Europeans who met him there and thanked the U.S. for liberation. In Martin's modest fashion, he replied, "You know, I did not do it by myself."

Martin's experiences during the war were recorded several times, as his memory was quite vivid. The last recording was done at the WWII Museum in New Orleans. They asked him to come for one hour to talk about his part in WWII, and 3 hours later they finally finished the session.

Martin was buried in New York with a military honor guard at the service. He loved his family and his comrades and will be missed by all who knew him.



**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION STATEMENT OF
ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND EQUITY-INCOME TAX BASIS
9/30/15**

Prepared by Mize Houser and Co. P.A.

ASSETS

Current Assets

General Fund Cash	\$ 27,212
Octofoil Subscriptions Cash	8,069
Octofoil Library Project Cash	590
Memorial Fund Cash	3,705
Friends of Father Connors Fund Cash	\ 260
68th-2013 Reunion Cash	1,686
Balance from Reunion Insurance Funds	5,000
69th-2014 Reunion Cash	4,280
70th-2015 Reunion Cash	<u>2,882</u>
Total Current Assets	53,683

Total Assets	<u>53,683</u>
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets-Beginning	\$ 59,210
Current Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(5,527)</u>
Total Net Assets	53,683

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>53,683</u>
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**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENSES AND NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)-INCOME TAX BASIS
FROM 7/01/15 TO 9/30/15**

	<u>CURRENT QUARTER</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
REVENUE		
General Fund Income	\$ 556	556
Octofoil Fund Income	1,290	1,290
Memorial Fund Income	1,345	1,345
FFCF	1,320	1,320
70th-2015 Reunion	<u>4,642</u>	<u>4,642</u>
Total Revenue	9,153	9,153

(continued on page 6)



(continued from page 5)

	<u>Current Quarter</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Expense		
Office Expenses	\$ 107	107
Postage Expense	177	177
Printing and Copies	204	204
Supplies Expense	1,478	1,478
Entertainment Expense	200	200
Accounting Expense	320	320
Food/Catering Expense	1,713	1,713
Transportation and Room Rental	8,698	8,698
Miscellaneous	964	964
Donations	500	500
Memorial Repairs	318	318
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenses	\$14,680	\$14,680
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Surplus /(Deficit)	(\$5,527)	(\$5,527)

Balance in Sub-Accounts as of December 31, 2015

General	\$26,065.95
Octofoil	\$7,748.64
Library Project	\$589.59
Memorial Fund	\$3,730.00
FFCF	\$659.61
Reunion Insurance Fund	\$5,000.00
2013 Reunion Balance	\$1,685.63
2014 Reunion Balance	\$4,279.71
2015 Reunion Balance	\$2,882.08
	<hr/>
Total in All Accounts	\$52,641.21

Respectfully submitted
Mary Cooper, Treasurer



First Meeting of the Sons and Daughters of German and American Veterans of the Battle of Hürtgen May 28 to May 31, 2015

Submitted by Gail Eisenhower, authored by Maren Esser as translated from German

Our first meeting was a great success that weekend. The first American participants arrived one week earlier than the meeting. The official start of the event was on Friday, May 28, 2015, with a round of introductions of participants already arrived. This was followed by very interesting presentations about the Battle of Hürtgen Forest by Mario Cremer and Albert Trostorf.

On Saturday we went on our first tour in the direction of Hürtgen and to the memorial cemetery where a flower arrangement was laid at the Lieutenant Lengfeld monument. Prayers for the deceased were said in English and German languages. Another floral arrangement was laid down on the monument to Robert Cahow. From there we went to the Museum Hürtgenwald 1944 und Frieden. Our thanks go to the team of the museum for the warm welcome, organization and hosting of the day. After a great visit to the museum, we went on to "Ordensburg Vogelsang". After a short lunch break we took a comprehensive tour of the "Ordensburg" by Dirk Küsters, who was supported by Mr. Mario Cremer. Mr. Küsters explained the story of the "Ordensburg" extensively. After an exhaustive but very informative day, we took the bus back to the hotel where a dinner was held and we spent the evening together.

On Sunday, May 31st at 9 A.M., our bus started again. The first goal of the day was the "Frenzer Mill", where we were welcomed by the Wollschläger family. The family had discovered "traces" of American soldiers during renovation work. We send our thanks to the Wollschläger family for our warm welcome and their hospitality of coffee and cake for the participants. After this, we went to Belgium. Our destination was the U.S. War Cemetery in Henri-Chapelle which was very emotional for us and our American friends. Our group was received by the superintendent of the cemetery who offered his hand to us as an introduction. After another ceremony of laying flowers in memory of the fallen, we visited the graves. After this very emotional visit, we went on to the "Remember Museum" in Clermont. We were warmly welcomed with a snack and drink by the

owners, Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz. After this short break, we were divided into two groups- a German speaking one and an English speaking one, for a tour of the museum. After seeing this, 93 year old U.S. war veteran from the 9th Infantry Division, Jack Dauner, was allowed to sign his name on the truck of the Red Ball Express. Many veterans who have already visited this great museum have also done so. After this interesting and emotional day, we went back to Düren. The meeting was then officially concluded.

As some participants remained in Düren even longer, more sporadic activities followed in the next few days. The forest in Stolberg was visited, the cemetery "Marienbildchen" in Merode forest, the mining area Indeland and several memorial monuments in Düren.

The event was financially supported by the RWE Campanian program and as a project of the "Zeitreisen Eifel", the Rureifel tourism program.

Special thanks to our sponsors (RWE Campaniums Programm and Rureifel Touristik, Mr. Mario Cremer, Mr Dirk Küsters, Family Wollschläger, the team from the Museum Vossenack and Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz.

The organizers of this event consisted of Sheila Trostorf-Aminatey, Maren Esser, Volker Dedericks and Sebastian Zipper under the leadership of Mr. Albert Trostorf.

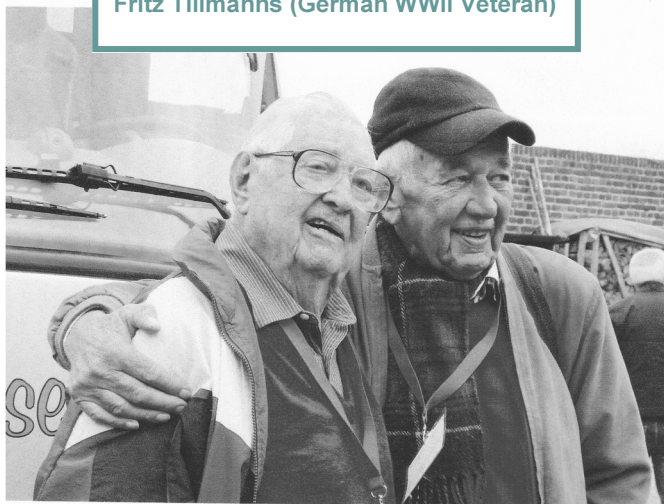
The participants of the event came from Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland and the U.S.A. The oldest participants were the two German veterans Fritz Tillmann (92) and Rudolf Porsche (93) and the U.S. veteran Jack Dauner (93). The youngest participant was 11 years old.

On Friday, May 28, 2015, we met as strangers and on Sunday, May 31, 2015, we parted as friends with tears in our eyes.

The dates for next year's "Meeting of the Sons and Daughters of the German and American Veterans of the Battle of Hürtgen" will be Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2016. The home base for the event will be Düren and will include visits to Aachen, the American Military Cemetery in the Netherlands, Remagen and the museum there.

Jack Dauner (9th Inf. Div., K Co., 60th Infantry Regiment)

Fritz Tillmanns (German WWII Veteran)



Prayer at St. Lo, Normandy, France July 1944

Written by Herbert Stern
D Company, 9th Medical Battalion

The capture of Cherbourg and the sweep of the Cotentin Peninsula were behind us. There was a feeling of accomplishment and pride for a veteran division, but there was also total exhaustion and thoughts of casualties and the knowledge that major engagements lay ahead.

On the morning of July 23, the air was hazy and sticky hot. The Division had moved through Carentan during the night, and most units were now deployed south of Isigny in anticipation of the big bombardment and breakout at St. Lo. The morning report mentioned that early that morning one of our chaplains would hold a brief service in a nearby field around 10:30 that morning.

At about 10, I was standing on the dirt road flanking the field where I spotted Chaplain Tepper and his jeep driver setting up a small portable lectern. GI's started to straggle into the field. Some half asleep, bleary eyed, everyone in sweaty, rumpled uniforms. Looking around, there were about 80-90 men from the Division. Some were standing, holding field issue prayer books, others were on one knee, heads bent in prayer.

Tepper started in a high pitched nasal voice in his non-denominational sermon. There was not much that was uplifting, nonetheless the crowd had come to seek a spiritual lift, perhaps also a moment of calm, and private thoughts.

Irving Tepper was Jewish, a Chicago native in his late twenties. He had attended Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, a reform seminary. He was a gangly, six footer with ill-fitting glasses, and an ill-fitting uniform—a bit of a nerdy guy. He was one of 3 chaplains assigned to the 9th Division. Like all of us out there, he looked frazzled, exhausted from constant combat, moving a soul continuously, and visiting heavy casualties and giving last rites. Like all of us, there was a resigned look that said, "Will we make it to the next day?"

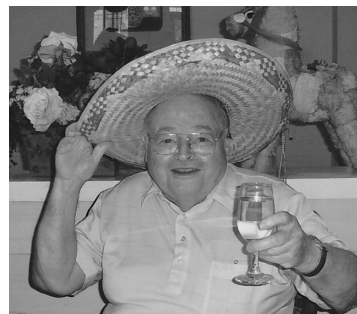
The service was over in 20 minutes. Looking back I saw Tepper and his driver stow their equipment into the jeep while everyone was dispersing. At one that afternoon, I had to report to Medical Battalion Headquarters. Passing by a small tent with flaps open, I was shocked to see Tepper lying on an elevated stretcher—he was in a coma—his uniform blood stained.

Shortly after the morning service, he and his driver had taken off on that dusty, dirt road. The rising dust made a perfect target for a German 88. The jeep took a direct hit. Tepper died that afternoon.

THE NINETY'S CLUB

Here's your chance to join an exclusive, much respected, one of a kind club. Membership is free! All it takes is a birthday, celebrating your achievement of 90 years. Send your name and recent photo to Jane Mitchell, Editor.

New Ninety's Club Member



Gordon Schneider
60th Infantry, Co. H
Arlington TX

New Members

We welcome Gary P. Hale and Charles E. Bonney as new members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Gary and Charles are Vietnam Veterans and both reside in Dripping Springs, TX.

WELCOME GARY AND CHARLES!

HISTORY OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION
THE OLD RELIABLES
Compiled through the efforts of:
Mrs. Barbara A. Bower
Specialist 4, Donald R. Love
Colonel Isabelle J. Swartz
Revised June 1981
(Part 1)

“THE OCTOFOIL”

Shoulder sleeve insignia became official for all units after the First World War and in 1923, the Ninth Infantry Division—with War Department approval—adopted the Octofoil as its patch. 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.

Perhaps Octo, meaning eight, is a bit confusing to many when speaking of the Ninth Division. But in foiling there are eight foils (positions) and heraldic rules gave the Octofoil to the ninth son, since it was symbolic of his being surrounded by eight brothers; which is an explanation of why this eight-petaled insignia is correct for the Ninth Regular Army Division.

The design chosen for the Ninth consists of a red quatre-foil atop a blue quatre-foil, with a white center. The red stands for the artillery, the blue for the infantry and the white denotes the color of numerals found on division flags. Surrounding the Octofoil is a rim of olive drab, symbolic of the United States Army.

WORLD WAR I

The 9th Infantry Division took its place in the arsenal of the Regular Army in 1918 at Camp Sheridan, Alabama, designed to be part of the World War I American Expeditionary Forces. In training for European warfare when the November 11, 1918 Armistice was signed, the division was demobilized February 15, 1919; re-designated a Regular Army unit in 1923; and placed on the inactive list.

WORLD WAR II

The Second World War began in Europe on September 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland. The United States, although officially neutral, began to prepare for possible involvement on the European continent by organizing, equipping, and training its small Regular fighting forces of land, sea and air, and calling National Guard and Reserve units to active duty. As part of the mobilization, the 9th Division was reactivated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on August 1, 1940, with the following components:

39th Infantry Regiment- (WWI service-4th Division)
47th Infantry Regiment-(WWI service-4th Division)
60th Infantry Regiment-(WWI service-5th Division)
9th Division Artillery
 26th Field Artillery Battalion
 34th Field Artillery Battalion
 60th Field Artillery Battalion
 84th Field Artillery Battalion
 9th Division Band
 15th Engineer Battalion

 9th Medical Battalion
 9th Quartermaster Battalion
 9th Signal Company
 9th Reconnaissance Troop
 Headquarters and 9th Military Police Company
 709th Ordnance Company

The division initially was comprised of volunteers, but with the

institution of the Selective Service Act in September 1940, the 9th began to receive inducted members.

Thus organized, the division began intensive training, including the Carolina maneuvers (on the border, south of Charlotte, NC) in September 1941 and amphibious training at Norfolk Va., Solomon's Island, Va., and New River, N.C. in early 1942.

The 9th Division was combat ready by fall, and re-designated the 9th **Infantry** Division on August 1, 1942 (following the organization of the 9th Armored Division on July 15). The division was divided into three Regimental Combat Teams (RCT's), led by the three infantry regiments and supported by other division components. The 9th began to deploy overseas on September 26, as the 39th RCT sailed from New York to Northern Ireland (and later Scotland) for additional training. The remainder of the division embarked from Hampton Roads, Va. on October 23 for the North African Theater of Operations, to be joined later by the 39th RCT. On November 8, 1942, the division, as part of the II Corps, assaulted the beaches of northern Africa.

THE AFRICAN CAMPAIGN

The 39th RCT landed at Algiers, Algeria, and with other II Corps units, captured the city in 3 days. The 47th RCT landed at Safi, French Morocco, and secured the road to Marrakech, while the 60th RCT attacked French Morocco 200 miles to the north, capturing Port Lyautey and the Citadel (Kasba) at Mehdia. Each assault was a vital part of *Operation Torch*, designed to prevent enemy occupation of key air and naval stations along the Atlantic and Mediterranean coast of Africa.

The last objective of *Operation Torch*, in Tunisia, proved to be a more difficult campaign than those in the other two countries. After repeated attempts to secure Tunis and Bizerte in northern Tunisia, the II Corps was forced back to the south. In February 1943, the fighting finally took a positive turn, as the II Corps drove Field Marshall Rommel's German Afrika Corps from the Kasserine Pass in central Tunisia.

During mid-March, the 9th was ordered south to relieve the pressure on the British forces located to the south of the Gafsa-Gabes axis. The 60th RCT attacked the Station de Sened and the Mak-nassey Pass, while the remainder of the division fought at the El Guettar Pass, located approximately 13 miles southeast of El Guettar. As these hilly areas were cleared of the enemy, the entire II Corps turned northward.

United for the first time as a division, the 9th was on the northern flank of the Allied force pushing on the German-Italian line back to Bizerte, where on May 8, 1943, the 47th Combat Team was the first Allied infantry unit to enter the city, with a battalion of the *Corps Franc* on its left. Once inside the city, the 47th stopped its advance, allowing the French unit to pass through their ranks and capture the city, eliminating final enemy resistance in Tunisia. This gesture gave the French people a major step in the liberation of their country.

The 9th remained in reserve in northern Africa (on occupation and guard duty) while the main body of the II Corps invaded Sicily. In July 1943, the 39th RCT was detached from the division, and, attached to the new Provisional Corps, aided in the capture of Palermo on July 22. Later that day, the 9th Division Artillery arrived in Sicily to be temporarily attached to the 39th Combat Team and 82nd Airborne Division.

The remainder of the division arrived in Sicily on August 1, scheduled to relieve the 1st Division before it took the city of Troina, but was kept behind the lines until after the city fell to the 1st Division (and attached 39th RCT) on August 6th.

(continued on page 10)



(continued from page 9)

Continuing east in the place of the 1st Division, the 9th captured Cesaro on August 8th. The German High Command decided to evacuate Sicily, and the order was issued to the Axis forces on the 8th. As the enemy began to withdraw, the Allies continued the advance eastward, with the objective of Messina, on the eastern tip of Sicily.

On August 13, the 60th Combat Team captured Floresta and the 39th reached Randazzo. These two cities were key points of the enemy's last defense of the Allied advance on Messina. The 9th remained in position outside Floresta until August 20, 1943, when it was officially announced that Sicily was free of the enemy. The division remained in Sicily on occupation and guard duty until November 1943.

FORTRESS EUROPE

On November, 11, 1943, the division departed for England, where it began intensive training for the ultimate invasion of Europe. On D-Day plus 4 (June 10, 1944) the 9th began landing on Utah Beach, Normandy, France.

The 39th Infantry was immediately attached to the 4th Division, and with the permission of the division commander, was the sole captor of Quineville.

The main body of the division had completed landing by the 14th, and began to move west with orders to pass through the 90th Infantry Division, and to capture the area above the Prairies Marcaguesses, a marshland in the western Cotentin Peninsula. As enemy tanks began to move south, the 9th Division with the 90th Infantry and 82nd Airborne Divisions, was ordered to cut the peninsula. As the 9th Division reached the Atlantic coast on June 17, the enemy split into two groups; one retreated north into the Cherbourg area and the other tried, unsuccessfully to cut through the Allied line. The enemy's attempt to cut through Allied lines was halted mainly by the efforts of the 60th Field Artillery, and June 18th found the German 77th Division turning north to Cherbourg. The next day, the 9th, 4th and 79th Divisions began the attack on Cherbourg, and on June 25-28 captured the city as well as senior enemy Army and Navy commanders of the Cherbourg area.

From Cherbourg the division proceeded north, and by July 1, the 9th cleared enemy resistance in the Cape de la Hague area (at the northern tip of the Cotentin Peninsula). In less than a month, the 9th Division captured 18,000 enemy soldiers.

As July 1 marked the end of the Cherbourg Campaign, the 9th was ordered south to assist British troops to break through enemy resistance between Carentan and St. Lo. Assisted by the 4th and 83rd Divisions, the 9th led the breakthrough which destroyed one of the enemy's finest armored divisions: the German Panzer Lehr Division. The 9th proceeded southeast, and on August 13, was ordered to join the 1st Infantry and 3rd Armored Divisions to eliminate the German Seventh Army entrapment near Falaise – the Falaise Gap. As the enemy began to exit through the towns of Falaise and Trun, it was met by tremendous American and British air assault, with Allied forces closing from all sides. The gap was closed by August 20, and in two days enemy resistance was eliminated.

Without a rest, the men of the 9th headed east, crossed the Seine River south of Paris and moved northeast through Melun and Chateau-Thierry (a familiar battle scene from World War I).

On September 2, 1944 the 9th became the first Allied unit to enter Belgium, as the 9th Reconnaissance Troop entered Monignies. The division crossed through Belgium with little resistance from the enemy, and in less than two weeks was prepared and

equipped to begin the assault on Germany.

Supplies and personnel replacements had not arrived in sufficient numbers, however, and proved to be a detriment to the initial Allied advance into Germany.

THE SIEGFRIED LINE

While in Eupen, Belgium, the 9th received orders to attack the heavily fortified Aachen to Monschau sector of the Siegfried Line and to seize road centers in the vicinity of Dueren, 15 miles further to the east. The Siegfried Line (West Wall) of the German defense was a fortified line of pillboxes extending along the German border from the Netherlands to Switzerland. It took six years to build, and although never completed, was considered by many to be impregnable.

The 9th entered Germany at Roetgen on September 14, 1944, with the 47th Infantry in the lead and receiving the credit for being the first Allied unit to penetrate the line. The breakthrough was completed in three days, as infantrymen of the 39th proceeded east to Rollesbroich, the 47th turned north to Gressenich, and the 60th headed south to Monschau, eliminating pillboxes and enemy forces along the way.

Reaching the objective of Dueren proved to be a costly and time consuming effort. As the division began its advance, it experienced not only sabotage and continuous artillery fire, but numerous attacks and counter-attacks. Between September 13 and October 26, 1944, the 9th suffered 3,836 casualties, with many of these a result of fierce fighting in the Huertgen Forest, midway between Roetgen and Dueren.

By the end of October there were better conditions for the Allied Forces, and particularly for the 9th Division. Aachen fell to the VII Corps (of which the 9th was a part), supply shipments and replacements began to arrive in increased numbers and the battle-fatigued 9th (minus the 47th Infantry) was withdrawn from the line to spend the month of November at the Elsenborn Rest and Recreation Camp, Belgium.

The 47th continued to attack to the north and captured the Frenzerberg Castle, later joining the other elements of the division at Camp Elsenborn on November 30. The next day, December 1, 1944, the 60th Infantry was dispatched to Lamersdorf to strengthen the area, and was relieved on the 5th to 6th by the 1st Division's 16th Infantry.

The remainder of the division (still minus the 47th Infantry) received orders to attack Langerwehe and departed Camp Elsenborn December 5. Through the next several days the 9th made its way to Dueren, and was awaiting orders to attack the city on December 17, 1944.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Just south of Monschau, the German Army gathered its forces to launch the final thrust – the last attempt to contain the Allied advance. Combining all its sources of manpower and supplies, the enemy moved from the Ardennes Mountains, north toward Elsenborn and Monschau, with the goal of Antwerp, Belgium. Lying in its path was Eupen, the Allied Command Post.

The 47th was ordered into the Monschau section, while the 39th was deployed to the Elsenborn area. The remainder of the division departed for Sourbrodt, to relieve elements of the 2nd and 99th Infantry Divisions. **From the 20th of December until January 29, 1945, the 47th Infantry distinguished**

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itself by successfully holding the entire Monschau section (an area approximately 10 miles wide), which had taken the brunt of the enemy attack. By the end of January the battle was over. With most of its supplies exhausted from the Battle of the Bulge, the enemy began its retreat toward the interior of Germany. The 9th regrouped and Allied forces resumed the push into Germany.

The 9th moved into the Monschau Forest on January 30, headed east, and on February 5 captured the Urft (Urfttalsperre) Dam. The division turned north, and on February 9, 1945 captured the Schmidt (Schwammenuel) Dam, a major obstacle in the drive through the Roer River area. **The 60th Infantry received a Presidential Unit Citation for its part in securing the dam.**

In a letter of commendation to the division commander, Major General Clarence R. Huebner, V Corps Commander, coined the phrase which became the sobriquet of the 9th Infantry Division and now is part of its official title:

...Your division performed in a manner of which your officers and men should be justly proud. The OLD RELIABLES of your command have again proved there is no substitute for a battle-hardened and experienced combat division...

TO THE RHINE

By March 1945, the division had fought its way to Bonn, Germany and joined with the 1st Division, cleared enemy resistance there on March 7. That same day, at the southern tip of Remagen, the enemy had wired the Ludendorff Bridge for demolition. For advancing Allied troops, it was the nearest conceivable

route for movement across the Rhine River.

The 9th Armored Division captured the bridge intact, and the 9th Infantry Division was immediately dispatched to the area to spearhead the crossing. The 47th RCT was the first unit to cross the Rhine (while temporarily attached to the 9th Armored Division). Once the 9th Infantry Division arrived, it immediately began to prepare the bridge for massive troop and vehicle movement. Supported by the 84th Field Artillery, the 9th Signal Battalion provided communications, while the 15th Engineers made necessary repairs on the bridge to make it passable. Once emergency repairs were made, the 9th Military Police Company directed traffic over the bridge. **Each of these division units received the Presidential Unit Citation for its part in the securing and holding the Remagen Bridgehead.**

During March the division continued to move through the heart of Germany. It cut the Cologne-Frankfurt autobahn in several locations and captured numerous German towns during its pursuit of the enemy. On March 26, 1945, the enemy began its retreat into the Ruhr Pocket, situated near the head of the Ruhr River. The 9th Division aided in sealing off the area in early April, thus eliminating the threat of attack from enemy troops trapped there.

On April 21, the 9th relieved the 3rd Armored Division along the Mulde River in the center of Germany, and awaited the imminent arrival of Russian troops from the east. On April 30, Russian soldiers met officers of the 9th Division at Pratau. The division remained near Dessau until V-E (Victory in Europe) Day – May 9, 1945.

(Part 2 will be published in a future issue of The Octofoil)