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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, January/February/March 2016

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, January/February/March 2016" (2016). *The Octofoil*. 400.
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The Octofoil

Jan.-Feb.-Mar.
2016

Volume LI, No. 1

President's Message



The first day spring of 2016 had recently passed with summer hopefully not be too far behind. These were my thoughts as I shoveled 24 inches of snow from my driveway, the result of a big Colorado snowstorm. It is not that uncommon, for us to get that much snow at once in Denver, but this storm was big and shut down the airport, interstate highways and more for several hours. Summer in Florida for the 71st Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association sounded pretty good!

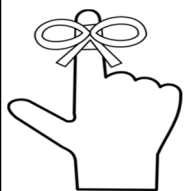
The Reunion Committee has been busy working out many of the details of the reunion. More information is provided in this newsletter. The reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Bell Tower in Fort Myers. This hotel is located about 11 miles from the Southwest Florida International Airport and is very comfortable according to our Fort Myers resident and Reunion Chairperson, Arlene Silver. She has negotiated a special reunion price so follow the registration instructions and reserve your rooms early.

A dinner buffet cruise in the San Carlos Bay near Sanibel Island is planned for Saturday evening, plus some other events. New this year is a free workshop for all attendees on researching the military records of our veterans. Ms. Jennifer Holik of Chicago, IL will be the guest speaker and will provide insight into various research techniques and military record sources.

You will note that there is a new membership form designed to better inventory our military veterans and their spouses/widows within our organization. As our membership is changing we need to know the veteran-related makeup of the association in order to determine the correct type of tax-exempt nonprofit organization that we qualify for under the IRS 501(c) regulations. Please take time to complete the form when renewing your membership.

I look forward to seeing you all at the 71st Reunion this summer.

Terry R. Barnhart, President
The Ninth Infantry Division Association



Don't Forget!

If you have not yet paid your membership dues or renewed your Octofoil subscription, time is running short! Membership and subscription forms are provided on the last page of this newsletter.

As Terry mentioned, it is important to complete the new membership form when you renew. Since the makeup of the organization is transitioning from primarily veterans to family members of veterans, it is necessary to track this information to determine the correct nonprofit authorization for which we qualify.

Be sure to fill in the membership year on both the membership form and The Octofoil subscription form. Please note that both run from July 1st through June 30.



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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: **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.

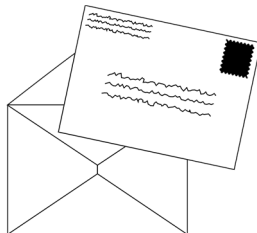
Volume LI Number 1

Jan.-Feb.-Mar. 2016

At our last reunion, the Board of Governors voted to try to reconnect with those who are on our master list for The Ninth Infantry Division Association but who have not continued their membership or renewed their Octofoil subscription.

To that end, a letter has been sent to those who are no longer active members of the association. A total of 735 letters were mailed. We included information about membership, the Octofoil and the 2016 reunion. Our hope is that we will get some positive responses and that some veterans and/or family members will reactivate their involvement in the association.

This will also assist us in updating our mailing list and correcting current information.



TIP OF THE HAT

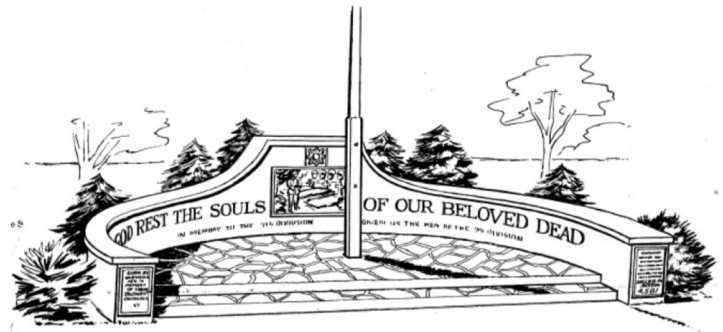
There were no contributions to the Tip of the Hat fund this quarter. The current balance is \$3,730.00.

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 "Tip of the Hat" and mail to:

Mary Cooper, [REDACTED]



FRIENDS OF FATHER CONNOR FUND

There were no contributions to the FFCF this quarter.

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, [REDACTED]

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 its events will be \$300 per person. **Please send a \$100 deposit (\$50 non-refundable) by May 1, 2016 with the balance due by July 1, 2016.** Attach the registration form (found on page 4) with the deposit and mail to: Mary Blann Cooper, [REDACTED].

Reservations for hotel accommodations will be the responsibility of the attendees. Two hotel rates (double occupancy) will be available: Option 1 (Block Code BNB)- \$99 per night **with no breakfast included** (\$109.89 with tax). Breakfast can be purchased at the hotel restaurant for \$10.95 per person. Option 2 (Block Code BN2) - \$109 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 surrounding area. **When making your reservation, please reference the appropriate Block Code listed above.**

It is best to call the registration manager at (239) 210-2477 for reservations (M-F between 9 A.M. -5 P.M. Eastern Time) and mention that you are part of the **Ninth Infantry Division Association 71st Annual Reunion**, in addition to the Block Code to secure our special room rates. You can also call the front desk at (239) 482-2900 which will take you to Central Reservations. **Hotel room reservations must be made before July 6, 2016.**

The Crowne Plaza offers a free (space available) hotel shuttle between 7 A.M. and 11 P.M. from the Southwest Florida International Airport. Call the front desk at **(239) 482-2900** upon landing. Also available is Metro Cab for about \$30 for the 20 minute ride. If you drive to Fort Myers, the hotel offers free self-service parking to its guests.

New this year, 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) veterans. Priority will be given to WWII veterans in hopes that more veterans will be able to attend the 71st Reunion. Veterans wishing to take advantage of this generous offer must first make their own reservations at the hotel. They will be contacted about reimbursement before the Reunion.

Highlights of the weekend will include:

Friday, registration runs all day with a welcome meet and greet party with an informal Italian dinner. Officers/Board of Governors will meet in the afternoon.

Saturday, registration continues with Association General Business meeting in the morning. The afternoon is free to explore the Fort Myers environs before a special sunset dinner cruise aboard the *Sanibel Harbour Princess*. Roundtrip bus transportation will be provided.

Sunday, registration continues, there will be an Officers/Board of Governors meeting before the late morning Memorial Service. Guest speaker at the Service will be military researcher and historian Ms. Jennifer Holik. Later in the afternoon Ms. Holik will be conducting a free workshop to all attendees on researching military records. (See inset on Ms. Holik.) The Reunion Banquet will be held in the evening with our annual auction fund raiser.

On Monday, we will say good bye to new and old friends.



Guest Speaker Jennifer Holik

Jennifer Holik is an international researcher, speaker and author of numerous books, articles and instructional courses of genealogical and military history research techniques. She holds a BA in History from the Missouri University of Science and Technology. Jennifer will offer a workshop with handouts on researching military history on Sunday afternoon. She will provide insight and realistic perspective of how to locate, analyze and interpret military records. She can tell us how to reconstruct individual service histories, document service locations and combat experience and, if necessary, tell us how to document combat death and burial records. Jennifer has the unique talent of "connecting the dots" and piecing together the multiple puzzle pieces of a soldier's history. Jennifer often speaks before military groups, museums, libraries, genealogical societies, community groups and corporations. She recently spoke to the military association of the 104th Infantry Division and is scheduled to speak at the 96th Reunion of the 80th Infantry Division later in August.

We look forward to meeting and hearing Jennifer Holik's presentation at our 71st Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. You can read more about Ms. Holik at www.wwiiresearchandwritingcenter.com.



**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]



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



**Robert (Bobby) Watts
A Btry, 47th Inf. Regt.
Richmond VA**

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

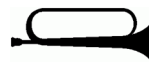
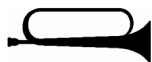
SGT Sammy L. Davis, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery; West of Cai Lay; 18 November 1967
SP4 Edward A. Devore, Jr.*, Company B, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry; Near Saigon; 17 March 1968
PFC James W. Fous*, Company E, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 14 May 1968
SSG Don J. Jenkins, 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*

CHARLES J. ALDIERI
A Co. 746th Tank Bn.

HAROLD V. SCHRAMM
1st Bn. 47th Infantry, Hdqtr. Co.

RALPH I. WILLIAMS
HQ Btry. 60th FA Bn.



TAPS OBITUARIES

TAPS OBITUARIES



Charles J. Aldieri
1925-2015
A Company, 746th Tank Battalion

Charles J. "Chuck" Aldieri, 90, of Bristol, beloved husband for 67 years to Bernice (Rezner) Aldieri, died on Tuesday April 28, 2015 at Bristol Hospital. Chuck was born in Meriden on March 7, 1925 and was one of three sons of the late Charles J. Aldieri, Sr., and Antoinette (Cassella) Aldieri. He was a lifelong Bristol resident and a graduate of Bristol High School. He entered the United States Army in 1943 to serve in World War II where he was a tank crewman with Company A, 746th Tank Battalion. His unit participated in campaigns from Normandy into Germany and he was a Bronze Star recipient. After World War II, he owned and operated the former Aldieri's Market on Goodwin Street before becoming a real estate appraiser working with his brother Mike. Chuck enjoyed playing golf and was a member of the Pequabuck Golf Club. He was a member of the American Legion Seicheprey Post 2, the Bristol Elk's Lodge #1010, and St. Gregory Church, Bristol. In addition to his wife, he is survived by three sons and two daughters-in-law: Mark and Jane Aldieri of Haddam Neck, Chris Aldieri of Valencia, CA, and James and Sheila Aldieri of Burlington; a brother Robert Aldieri of Southington; three granddaughters and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother, Michael Aldieri. Memorial donations may be made to St. Gregory Church or St. Paul Catholic High School. Please visit Chuck's memorial website at www.FUNKFUNERALHOME.com



Harold V. Schramm
1919-2014
47th Infantry, 1st Battalion
Headquarters Co.

Harold V. Schramm, age 94 a longtime resident of New Milford died peacefully surrounded by his family on Monday, February 10, 2014. Beloved husband of the late Cliphier Schramm (nee) Lindstrom. Devoted father of Doug Schramm, Mindy Reynolds and her husband Rev. Charles Reynolds. Loving grandfather of Erika and Alexander. Dear cousin of Ron and Jack Maiorino. Harold worked for 30 years as a salesman at Sears and Roebuck in Hackensack. He was a longtime member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in New Milford. He was a U.S. Veteran having served in World War II, after which he received the Bronze Star. He was also a member of the VFW in New Milford. The family extends its heartfelt thanks to the staff at Brighton Gardens Assisted Living in Saddle River and Life Source Hospice Team for their compassionate care and services rendered. In lieu of flowers donations in his name may be made to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Virginia Ave. and River Rd., New Milford, NJ 07646, or to St. Jude Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Memphis, TN 38101.



TAPS OBITUARIES

TAPS LETTERS



Ralph I. Williams
1919-2015
HQ Btry, 60th FA Battalion

Retired U.S. Army Colonel Ralph I. Williams passed away on November 28, 2015 at his residence in Melbourne, FL. He was born September 19, 1919 in Colfax, Indiana. He graduated with distinction from Purdue University in 1941 with a BS in Chemical Engineering and as a Field Artillery 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After attending the Battery Officer's Course at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, he was assigned to the 60th FA BN of the 9th Infantry Division and served in three amphibious landings and eight campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, England, France, Belgium, and Germany until the end of [WWII](#) in Europe. He later served three campaigns in Korea as S-3 25th Division Artillery and CO of the 8th FA BN.

Colonel Williams was a pioneer in guided missiles and nuclear weapons. He attended the first Guided Missile Staff Officer Course at Ft. Bliss, Texas from 1946-1947. This included a twelve week course at White Sands Proving Grounds working with Verner Von Braun and many other German engineers and scientists firing V2 missiles. In 1948, he was part of a team that helped establish Cape Canaveral Air Station as the home for America's missile base and testing range. During his Army career, he held key positions on the Department of the Army General Staff, the Department of Defense Joint Staff, the Field Artillery Test Board, and the Guided Missile Department of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School where he had a positive influence on the research, development, testing and deployment of the Pershing and Lance weapon systems.

His numerous awards include 3 bronze arrowheads and 11 combat stars, the Bronze Star, French and Belgian Fourraguerres, General Staff and Joint Staff Badges, the Legion of Merit, the French Croix De Guerre, and the French Medal of Honor.

Following retirement in 1970, he taught in the FAA Management Training School and at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Wanda Eileen Williams, who died in 2002 after 63 years of marriage. He is survived by his second wife, Elizabeth Bennett Williams, his three daughters, Connie Sue (Kingston) Hart, Sheila Chitty, and Kimberly (Charles) Grant, ten grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister-in-law and several nieces and nephews and his extended Bennett family.

Bernice R. Aldieri

November 13, 2015

Dear Reader,

I received the July/Aug/Sept issue of the OCTOFOIL and noted that my husband's subscription had expired. I am sending this letter to notify you that he is deceased. He reached his 90th birthday on March 7 and passed on April 28.

I am also sending a copy of an article that was printed in the Connecticut HARTFORD COURANT on Veteran's Day in 2013.

He was a member of the 746th Tank Battalion that was attached to the 9th Infantry during the battle at Remagen. I thought that this might be of interest to any veteran who might have been there at the same time.

He and I visited Germany and surrounding areas where he traveled during the war and returned twice more to visit with his sons.

He also attended the reunions when he was able.

Thank you for all the interest and support that you offer to our World War II veterans.

Sincerely,
Bernice R. Aldieri

Editor's note: The article to which Mrs. Aldieri refers is printed on page 8 of this publication.

We also received notification from Valerie Quarton that her mother, Marjorie G. Hunt passed away on November 18, 2015. She was the widow of Loren C. Hunt who passed away on December 11, 2010.

**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) - INCOME TAX BASIS FROM 07/01/15 TO 12/31/15**

Prepared by Mize Houser and Co. P.A.

Revenue	Current Qtr.	YTD
General Fund Income	\$169	\$725
Octofail Fund Income	310	1,600
Memorial Fund Income	25	1,370
FFCF Income	400	1,720
70th—2015 Reunion	<u>0</u>	<u>4,642</u>
Total Revenue	\$904	\$10,057

Expenses

Office Expenses	0	107
Postage Expenses	130	307
Printing and Copies	500	705
Supplies	0	1,478
Entertainment	0	200
Accounting Expenses	1,175	1,495
Food/Catering	0	1,713
Transportation/Room Rental	0	8,698
Miscellaneous	140	1,104
Donations	0	500
Memorial Repairs	<u>0</u>	<u>318</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,946</u>	<u>16,626</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,041)	(6,569)

**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES
AND EQUITY-INCOME TAX BASIS 12/31/2015**

ASSETS

Current Assets

General Fund Cash	\$26,066
Octofail Subscription Cash	7,749
Octofail Library Project Cash	590
Memorial Fund Cash	3,730
FFCF Cash	660
68th—2013 Reunion Cash	1,686
Reunion Insurance Fund	5,000
69th—2014 Reunion Cash	4,280
70th—2015 Reunion Cash	<u>2,882</u>
Total Current Assets	52,641

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets-Beg	\$59,210
Current Surplus (Deficit)	(6,569)
Total Net Assets	<u>52,641</u>

Balance in Sub-Accounts

General Fund	\$25,747.80
Octofail Fund	7,594.76
Octofail Library Project Fund	589.59
Memorial Fund (Tip of the Hat)	3,730.00
Friends of Father Connors Fund	659.61
Reunion Insurance Balance	5,000.00
2013 Reunion Balance	1685.63
2014 Reunion Balance	4,279.71
2015 Reunion Balance	2,882.08
2016 Reunion Balance	900.00

Total in All Sub-Accounts \$53,069.18

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Cooper, Treasurer



In Mural, Bristol Soldier Watches Over Site Of Remagen Battle

Reprinted from November 10, 2013 By SUSAN DUNNE,
sdunne@courant.com, The Hartford Courant

Charles J. "Chuck" Aldieri was just a few weeks shy of graduating — Bristol High Class of 1943 — when he was drafted. The next year and a half was Army basic training assignment to Europe and, finally, a regular assignment with the 746th Tank Battalion, including involvement on the outer edge of the Battle of the Bulge. A few months later, Aldieri was in another historic battle, the Battle of Remagen.

Improbably, his battalion's involvement with Remagen made him the star of an art installation there this year, about 68 years after the battle.

Sitting in the dining room of his Bristol home just before Veterans Day, Aldieri talked about the war, thumbed through a scrapbook and described how he wound up in a huge commemorative mural on the side of a German museum at the site of the Remagen bridge this summer.

"We were proceeding to the Rhine River, which was the next line of defense. The Germans had blown up all the bridges ... so we couldn't get over," said Aldieri, who looks much younger than his 88 years. "So when the 9th Armored discovered that the bridge at Remagen was still up, they notified the headquarters, who said to capture the bridge and try to get as many men over as you can before they blow it up."

The 746th was one of the units sent to the Battle of Remagen in March 1945 to help the 9th Armored. Aldieri was one of five men in one of the 746th's tanks.

On the opposite side of the river, among the German troops amassing to destroy the bridge, was a 16-year-old German recruit named Heinz Schwarz. He operated a searchlight to help gunners shoot down Allied planes.

A few months ago, the two men who had been young enemies at the Battle of Remagen met as new acquaintances on the still-destroyed bridge, which is now only two stone forts facing each other across the water. One fort today is a peace museum, the other a performance space. American and German, now allies, shook hands and reminisced.

The occasion for their meeting was an art exhibit about the Remagen battle. Berlin artist Hendrik Beikirch, who specializes in large-scale portraiture, turned photographs of Aldieri and Schwarz into a pair of 30-feet-by-30-feet painted portraits. He worked from a cellphone photo sent by one of Aldieri's sons. The portrait of Schwarz hung on the Remagen side of the bridge and the portrait of Aldieri on the side of the town of Erpel. Like the soldiers of so many years ago, the men looked at each other from opposite banks of the Rhine.

"The tourists were looking at me and looking at the picture and saying 'That's you?' I said 'yeah, that's me,'" said Aldieri, laughing.

The murals of Aldieri and Schwarz were installed in late August and were exhibited for two months.

Remagen

Aldieri remembers Remagen well. It was his 20th birthday, March 7, 1945, when the race began to send Allied troops across the railroad bridge, a bridge the German's had already tried to blow up once.

"The Germans had it all set to blow but ... the explosive failed," Aldieri said. "It went off, but the bridge lifted off [its pylons] and settled right back down."

While the 9th Armored worked to protect the bridge from explosion and collapse, Allied troops started to cross. "We [the 746th] were about 30 miles north of there when the bridge got captured. That night ... we traveled all night to Remagen in our tanks," said Aldieri. At the time, he was a cannoneer, whose job was to load the ammo. "We were there the next morning. ... We were one of the first to cross the bridge on the morning of the 8th.

"We got over on the other side, only a few of us. They had the infantry pinned down and our orders were for the tank to get the German tank that was pinning down the infantry, to try to knock 'em out. But they knocked us out first. Our tank caught fire and blew up. All five of us got out uninjured."

Private First Class Aldieri and his comrades went back across the bridge in a truck and crossed again the next day in a new tank. On the other side, they found their unit and "just kept advancing," he said.

The bridge finally collapsed on March 17. But by then, thousands of Allied fighting men had crossed over and pontoon bridges had been safely built. A month later, Aldieri and his tank comrades came face to face with Germans in a town.

"We used up all our ammunition that day, everything," recalls Aldieri, who received a Bronze Star for his actions that day, as did his other tank comrades. "We ran into a pretty good skirmish with the Germans in a town. We lost two tanks and a tank commander."

Aldieri spent the rest of the war with his unit, advancing toward Berlin. He was promoted to corporal, and to a gunner. In May, the war in Europe ended. In August, the war in the Pacific ended. Aldieri got home at Christmas 1945, and just in time. At a Christmas party he met Bernice, who later became his wife.

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 2)

(3rd Battalion, 34th Artillery)
(1st Battalion, 84th Artillery)
3rd SQUADRON, 5th CALVARY
15th ENGINEER (COMBAT) BATTALION
709th MAINTENANCE BATTALION
9th AVIATION BATTALION
9th SIGNAL BATTALION
9th SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION BATTALION
9th MEDICAL BATTALION

(continuing with World War II)

During it's combat in World War II, the 9th Infantry Division participated in the following officially designated campaigns:

ALGERIA-FRENCH MOROCCO (8-11 November 1942)
TUNISIA (7 November 1942-13 May 1943)
SICILY ((9 July -17 Aug. 1943)
NORMANDY (6 June--24 July 1944)
NORTHERN FRANCE (25 July-14 September 1944)
ARDENNES-ALSACE (16 December-25 January 1945)
RHINELAND (15 September 1944-21 March 1945)
CENTRAL EUROPE (22 March-11 May 1945)

Five division members and one member of an attached unit were awarded Medals of Honor for heroism in World War II campaigns (*posthumous award):

2 Lt. John E. Butts*	Co. E, 60th Inf. (1944)
TSGT Peter J Dalessandro	Co. E, 39th Inf. (1944)
SSG Hershel F. Briles	Co. C, 899th Tank Destroyer Bn. (attached) (1944)
SGT William L. Nelson*	60th Inf. (1943)
PFC Carl V. Sheridan*	Co. K, 47th Inf. (1944)
LTC Matt Urban	2nd Bn., 60th Inf. (1944)

Following the end of hostilities in Europe, the 9th Infantry Division was assigned to Ingolstadt, South Germany, where it remained on occupation duty until its deactivation on January 15, 1947.

Six months later (July 15, 1947), the 9th was reactivated at Fort Dix, NJ, as a training division. On May 25, 1964, the division colors were transferred to Goepengin, Germany, to replace the 28th Infantry Division (which was released from active duty and resumed its traditional role as a Pennsylvania National Guard division). At Goepengin, the 9th served as a part of NATO forces until the fall of 1956, when it rotated to Fort Carson, CO.

In December 1957 the division was reorganized from a Triangular type division to the new Pentomic. Battalions of the three infantry regiments (the 39th, 47th and 60th) were converted to Battle Groups. The 1st Battle Group, 5th Infantry and 1st Battle Group, 13th Infantry were added to the division. The 9th trained more than 100,000 soldiers during the five year period prior to its deactivation on January 31, 1962.

VIETNAM

On February 1, 1966, the 9th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Riley, KS. The division was reorganized under the ROAD (Reorganization Objective Army Division) system, in which each division was formed to meet particular combat demands, using improved mobility and increased firepower.

The division was composed of the following units:

39th INFANTRY (2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions)
47th INFANTRY (2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions)
60th INFANTRY (2nd, 3rd and 5th (Mech) Battalions)
9th DIVISION ARTILLERY
(2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery)
(1st Battalion, 11th Artillery)

Early in May 1966 the division was alerted for movement to Southeast Asia the following December; thus the 9th became the first division since World War II to be organized, equipped and trained for overseas combat.

THE DELTA DIVISION

The Mekong River Delta in Vietnam is interspersed with thousands of small rivers, canals and backwater areas. During the dry season, the delta is a land of productive truck farms, pineapple plantations and rice paddies, irrigated by its waterways. In the rainy season however, monsoon rains change this area into a giant sponge. Tons of mud sweep south from China, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

It was into this environment the men of the 15th Engineer Battalion arrived on October 19, 1966, to build the division size basecamp "Bearcat", approximately 20 miles northeast of the capital city of Saigon.

The official entry of the 9th Division into the Vietnam War was recorded December 19, 1966, when an increment of 5,000 Old Reliables landed on the beaches of Vietnam at Vung Tau. The remainder of the division arrived between December 19th and February 2, 1967.

By mid-January the 9th was the first American infantry unit to establish a permanent camp in the Mekong Delta. The division's 1st Brigade was the first unit to enter Long An Province, as the 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry succeeded the 2nd Battalion 14th Infantry at Rach Kien on February 13, 1967.

Through the months and years that followed, fighting in the Mekong Delta took no particular pattern, as compared to the stylized warfare in Europe and Africa. Helicopters now dominated the airways and armored boats pursued the enemy, and the troops adapted themselves to a new concept of war.

To meet the demands of the terrain, the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) was activated in June 1967, enabling the division to pursue the enemy by penetrating into the Mekong. Based upon concepts developed during the Civil War's 1860 Mississippi Delta Campaign, the MRF (comprised of Navan Task Force 117 and the 9th Division's 2nd Brigade) proved to be one of the most innovative methods employed by U.S. forces. Its quick strike capability using land-water warfare, combined with air-cushioned "hovercraft" and helicopter-borne troops, added a new dimension of mobility to the battlefield.

During 1967 units of the 9th took part in Operation Junction City (the largest operation of the war), as well as Operations Pad-dington; Coronado II, V and IX; and Akron III, where the men of the 1st Brigade and 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry discovered the war's largest arms cache: 1,140 weapons, 95,000 pounds of small arms ammunition, 3,634 grenades, 2,273 recoilless rifle shells, 452 mortar rounds and four 75 mm howitzers—the first artillery pieces captured by U.S. forces.

Combat activity for the 9th slackened during the first month of 1968 but during the truce for Tet holidays, on January 31, massive guerrilla attacks erupted throughout the Mekong. Division



infantrymen and their support troops found themselves on unaccustomed fronts and assigned unrehearsed missions. Instead of fighting through the mud and paddies, men of the 9th were involved in house-to-house fighting in Long Binh, Bien Hoa, Saigon-Cholon, Ben Tre, Xuan Loc, My Tho and Tan An. The offensive was contained by the end of February.

On May 7 the enemy made a second thrust, somewhat weaker than the first. The 9th was prepared and contained the attack on Saigon in eight days. The 9th Infantry Division was credited by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam with achieving "one of the biggest victories of the war".

In addition to its many operations and campaigns, the division was involved in extensive civic action. The MEDCAP's (Medical Civil Assistance Programs) treated more than 500,000 Vietnamese patients in 4,600 separate programs. MEDCAP not only treated people, it instructed the Vietnamese in providing medical care for their countrymen. In addition to MEDCAP, division soldiers repaired or built 60 schools and playgrounds, and 50 dispensaries.

Following the Midway conference of Presidents Nixon and Thieu on June 12, 1968, the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry was selected to be the first combat unit to deploy from Vietnam. On July 8, 1969, the troops were greeted in Seattle by General William C. Westmoreland, then Army Chief of Staff, paraded through the city, and honored with a baked salmon dinner by the Seattle Chamber of Commerce. The battalion was inactivated August 1, at Fort Riley, Kansas.

The remainder of the 9th Division redeployed during July and August, and the 9th Infantry Division was formally inactivated on September 25, 1969 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The division's 3rd Brigade (comprised of the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry; and 5th Battalion (Mechanized), 60th Infantry remained in Vietnam and was reorganized into a separate brigade on July 26, 1969. The men of the 3rd Brigade continued the fight into Long An, Han Ngia, Tay Ninh and later Cambodia. The unit remained in Vietnam for more than a year, and redeployed and deactivated upon arrival to Fort Lewis on October 13, 1970.

During combat in Vietnam, the 9th Infantry Division received participation credit for the following officially designated campaigns:

COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE II
COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE III
TET OFFENSIVE
COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE IV
COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE V
COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE VI
TET 69/COUNTEROFFENSIVE
SUMMER-FALL 1969

In addition, ten division soldiers were awarded Medals of Honor for heroism in Vietnam (posthumous award *):

SSG Don J. Jenkins	Co A, 2nd Bn/39th Inf.
SGT Sammy L. Davis	Btry C, 2nd Bn/4th Arty
SGT Leonard B. Keller	Co. A, 3rd Bn/60th Inf. SP5
SP5 Clarence E. Sasser	3rd Bn/60th Inf.
SP4 Edward A. Devore Jr.*	Co B, 4th Bn/39th Inf.
SP4 Thomas J. Kinsman	3rd Bn/60th Inf.
SP4 George C. Lang	Co A, 4th Bn/60th Inf.
SP4 Raymond R. Wright	Co A, 3rd Bn/60th Inf.
PFC James W. Fous*	Co E, 4th Bn/47th Inf.
PFC David P. Nash*	Co B, 2nd Bn/39th Inf.

ALL VOLUNTEER DIVISION

The 9th Infantry Division (Old Reliables) was reactivated May 26, 1972 at Fort Lewis. The 9th became, in short order, the first American division to be formed entirely of volunteers.

Under the ROAD system, the 9th Division now is composed of:

FIRST BRIGADE

2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry
2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry
3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry

SECOND BRIGADE

2nd Battalion (M), 60th Infantry
3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry
2nd Battalion, 77th Armor

THIRD BRIGADE

2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry
2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry
3rd, Battalion, 47th Infantry

9TH DIVISION AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY

1st Battalion, 67th ADA
1st Battalion, 4th ADA

9TH DIVISION ARTILLERY

E Battery, 333rd Target Acquisition Battery
2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery
1st Battalion, 11th Field Artillery
3rd Battalion, 34th Field Artillery

9TH DIVISION AIR CALVARY

3rd Squadron, 5th Calvary
9th Aviation Battalion
268th Attack Helicopter Battalion
214th Attack Helicopter Battalion

9TH NBC (NUCLEAR-BIOLOGICAL-CHEMICAL) BATTALION

9th Chemical Company
73rd Chemical Company
164th Smoke Company

DIVISION SUPPORT COMMAND

9th Finance Company
9th Adjutant General Company
525th Replacement Company
709th Maintenance Battalion
9th Supply and Transportation Battalion
9th Medical Battalion
9th Division Band

15TH ENGINEER BATTALION

9TH SIGNAL BATTALION

9TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

109TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

The division's current mission is training for combat under any conditions, anywhere in the world. Whether at home or across the country, the 9th Division continues to train, continues to march, to be combat ready for anything, anytime, anywhere, bar nothing, giving credence to its name:

THE OLD RELIABLES.

(Editor's note: The revision of this history was written in 1981. The Division was eventually deactivated in 1991.)



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