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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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10-1-2017

## The Octofoil, October/November/December 2017

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# The Octofoil

Oct-Nov-Dec  
2017

Volume LI, No. 4

## President's Message

*"If we don't remember, who will?"*



It does not seem like winter yet in Colorado as we are without snow and are experiencing 50 and 60 degree weather in Denver. Hopefully, things will change soon so that the ski industry can have a good season this winter.

Recently the Board of Governors voted unanimously to approve a new set of bylaws prepared by our Bylaws Committee composed of Janet Schnall (chairperson), Mary Cooper and Theda Ray. There will be a copy of those new Bylaws in the next issue of *The Octofoil*.

This is the first step in starting the transition from a veteran's organization to that of a non-profit 501.c.3 organization. As discussed in earlier issues of *The Octofoil*, this change is due to a change in the Association membership from primarily veteran members to more non-military members. Our mission will be the same, to honor and to remember the veterans of the Ninth Infantry Division both in World War II and Vietnam. Mary Cooper has started the legal documents with a Texas attorney to finalize the transition. Hopefully, this will be in time for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Reunion in July.

Glenda and Edd Baswell and their committee are moving forward with plans for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Reunion. It will be in South Haven, Mississippi which is just south of Memphis, Tennessee and near the Memphis Airport. Margi and I drove through there in October and stopped at the hotel. It is a beautiful facility so I hope that many of you will be able to attend and experience the southern hospitality of the extended Baswell Family. Elsewhere in this newsletter, there is specific information on the Reunion including the July dates, cost and registration form. I am hoping you all will plan to attend.

Finally, I am happy to say that our membership is increasing through our listing on Yuri Becker's website [www.9thInfantryDivision.net](http://www.9thInfantryDivision.net) and our other efforts. I continue to be contacted by interested parties who had a relative who served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division or in a few cases, a veteran. We welcome them to our "association family" and hope to meet them at a future reunion. Remember, "If we don't remember, who will?"

Margi and I would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and your family for a wonderful 2018.

Terry Barnhart  
President, Ninth Infantry Division Association



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You are invited to the  
**73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL REUNION**



**HILTON GARDEN INN MEMPHIS/SOUTHAVEN, MS**  
6671 Towne Center Loop  
Southaven, MS 38671  
July 20-23, 2018

The Reunion Committee, chaired by Glenda Baswell, announced the hotel location and details about the coming 2018 Reunion. The Reunion will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Memphis/Southaven, MS located south of Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis International Airport (MEM) is located within approximately 8 miles and the hotel offers a free courtesy airport shuttle. A one way taxi fee is about \$25.

The committee recommends that you consider making your hotel reservations early, and no later than June 1st to get the discounted rate of \$139 per night. A block of king bed and double queen rooms have been reserved for our group.

(continued on page 3)

### OUR MISSION

This Association was 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 about 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 4 Oct., Nov., Dec. 2017**

### Balance in all sub-accounts as of December 1, 2017

Account	Balance
General	25,083.40
Octofoil	9,063.62
Library Project	614.59
Memorial Fund	4,809.00
F.F.C.F.	714.61
Reunion Insurance Fund	5,000.00
2013 Reunion	1,685.63
2014 Reunion	4,279.71
2015 Reunion	2,882.08
2016 Reunion	2,772.27
2017 Reunion	4,406.78
Vets Travel Fund	1,625.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62,936.69</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Cooper, Treasurer

## TIP OF THE HAT

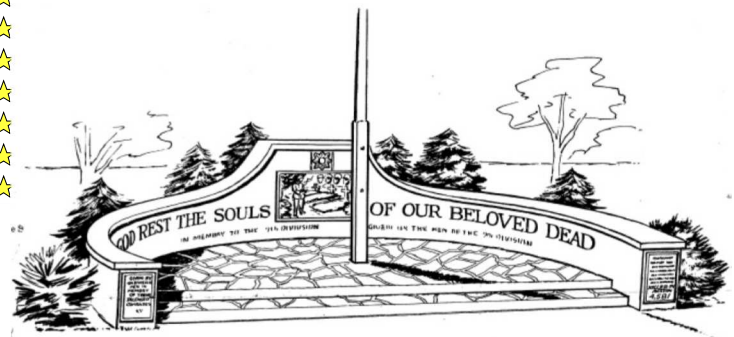
There were no contributions this quarter to the Tip of the Hat Memorial Fund.

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 Connors Fund**

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

**Frank, Mary and Kathy Lovell**  
Children of Frank Lovell,  
Friend of  
Father Connors

The current balance in the FFCF is \$714.61. 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]

To make your reservation, call the hotel directly ([662-349-0277](tel:662-349-0277)) and speak with the front desk agent, When doing so please make sure you let the agent know that you are part of a group block and give the code (9IR) to make sure you are put in the correct group block.

The Reunion events will cost \$250 per person (hotel room not included). A \$100 deposit is due by April 1, 2018 with the final payment due on June 1, 2018. Please use the registration form below and send to treasurer, Mary Blann Cooper.

Plans are moving forward for the Memorial Service, Saturday evening group activity, Sunday evening banquet and another possible "show and tell" presentation. More information about these events and possible special guests will be announced in the next issue of *The Octofoil*. Come and experience "southern hospitality" Ninth Infantry Division Association style!



**Registration Form  
73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion  
Hilton Garden Inn  
71 Towne Center Loop  
Southaven, MS 38671  
July 20-23, 2018**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone # to contact you \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association (write 2018 Reunion on memo line)*

*(\$100 per person deposit by April 1, 2018, balance of \$150 per person by June 1, 2018)*

*Mail form and check(s) to: Mary Blann Cooper, [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

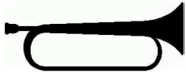
S/Sgt. Herschel F. Briles, Co. C, 899th TD Bn; Near Scherpenseel, Germany; 20 November 1944  
2nd Lieutenant John E. Butts\*, Co. E, 60th Infantry; Normandy, France; 14, 16, 23 June 1944  
T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro, Co. E, 39th Infantry; Near Kalterherberg, Germany; 22 December 1944  
Sgt. William 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*



### TAPS OBITUARIES



**Charles T. Illsley**  
**G Company, 60th Infantry Regiment**  
**Nov. 16, 1925-Nov. 16, 2017**

Chuck Illsley was born on November 16, 1925 in Plaistow, NH to Charles and Blanche (DeLan) Illsley. He died on his birthday in 2017 in Colorado. After graduating from high school he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was present when the Luddendorf Bridge at Remagen, Germany collapsed on March 17, 1945. He fought through Central Germany and the Hartz Mountains to the Elbe River. After the war, he was transferred to Dachau and other assignments near Ingelstadt. Chuck volunteered for acting in Soldier Shows to entertain the troops until late 1947.

Upon returning home he graduated from the University of New Hampshire in geology and chemistry and later received a Master's Degree in geochemistry. Chuck married Barbara Saunders on September 10, 1952. He worked for the Atomic Energy Commission and later at Rocky Flats Nuclear near Denver before retiring to Grand Lake, Colorado. He was active in several civic organizations there. He is survived by his son, Glenn and wife Sharon Illsley of Kenai, Alaska. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, brother, Russell, and son, Brian.

### TAPS OBITUARIES





## TEXAS CEREMONY HONORS HERBERT STERN AND OTHER WWII VETS

On Thursday, November 9, 2017, the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission honored Herbert Stern, 98, and others for their contribution in liberating Nazi concentration camps at the end of WWII. The ceremony was held in the Senate Chambers of the Texas State House complete with a medal presentation, brass band, speeches and a fly-over of WWII vintage fighter aircraft.

The ceremony took place on the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night in 1938 when Nazis terrorized many German Jews, torching synagogues, vandalizing homes, schools and businesses, and killing almost 100. The most poignant part of the ceremony was the presentation of the medallions to individual living liberators by survivors of the death camps. As each liberator received his medallion, an excerpt from his words recalling the experience of liberating a camp was read aloud. Following this, families of deceased liberators were presented with their medallions by adult children of deceased survivors. Also included in the ceremony was a letter from former First Lady Laura Bush, whose own father had helped liberate a camp, as well as a message from Elisha Wiesel, son of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Elie Wiesel.

To date, the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission have identified almost 350 Texans who served in military units that liberated these camps, according to the *Austin American-Statesman* article dated November 8, 2017. Prior to the ceremony, Herb and others were interviewed in 2012 by the Baylor University Institute for Oral History. These interviews were used to create a new book, titled *The Texas Liberators, Veteran Narratives from World War II*, which was recently published by the Texas Tech University Press. The Texas Liberators project also includes an immersive instructional app for high school students and teachers, a resource website, a traveling museum exhibit, and a continually updated Honor Roll of all Texas Liberators.

Herb has been a long time member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association and served in the 9th Infantry Division Medical Battalion, Company D. He was born in Germany, but immigrated to the US as a 16 year old boy of Jewish faith, escaping Nazi persecution before the war. Because Herb was a native German speaker, he was used as an interpreter of many Nazi POWs. Herb also participated in the liberation of Nordhausen slave labor camp in mid-April 1945. Herb and his wife Cathy now live in Austin, Texas after living many years in Houston.

The book can be ordered through Texas Tech University Press: 800-832-4042

For more information, email: [ttup@ttu.edu](mailto:ttup@ttu.edu) and visit [thgc.texas.gov](http://thgc.texas.gov) and [texasliberators.org](http://texasliberators.org)



## DID YOU EVER WONDER...where those unique looking casserole carriers came from?

In October your Association President, Terry Barnhart and his wife Margi, found the source in Selmer, Tennessee. Paul Schumacher, age 94 (39th Infantry Regiment), manufactures several hundred of these handy carriers from Red Oak that he harvests and cures from his 23 acre property in his small wood shop. He also makes many other wood products and ornaments. Paul has lived in Selmer for over 30 years after retiring as an aeronautical engineer from the Wright Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. The carriers are of his own design which he has modified over the years to be more functional. All of his carriers are marked on the back with a custom wood branding iron which says "Handcrafted by Paul Schumacher" with the reunion number.

Every year he brings several trays to the Annual Reunion for the fund raising raffle. Those who own one of the carriers find it very handy to carry those hot casseroles to potluck dinners and family holiday celebrations.

Thanks Paul for your creativity and support of the Association.



## MAIL CALL

*Email from Jack Dauner, Oct. 14, 2017*

### **Photos taken Sept. 27 - Oct. 4, 2017 at 3rd Annual Meeting of German and American families and veterans of the Hurtgen Forest Battle (December 1944)**

Photos taken during the week that Natalie and I spent over in Germany participating in a conference and memorial ceremonies attended by German and American families doing research on family members who were involved in the Hurtgen Forest Battle in December 1944. The guy in the red jacket was Rudi, a German soldier. I was the only representative of the 9th Inf. Division and the two of us joked about the fact that we must have been poor shots since here we were at 93 years old drinking good German beer and enjoying each others company.



## MAIL CALL

*Email from Janice Turowski, Nov. 11, 2017*

Happy Veterans Day to all! Especially our dads, both here and in heaven.

I wanted to pass along something very good and new. You might want to post this in your next publication. "You Tube" now has many, many videos/stories of the 9th Infantry. I was stunned as this is all new. Showing the history of the Division and the many battles, both WWII and Vietnam.

Just go into "You Tube.com" and type "9th Division" in the search section. My dad would have loved this. I posted a comment in honor of him on this day.

day! Hope you enjoy this day!

## GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS!

### **PAST ISSUES OF OCTOFOILS NOW ONLINE**

Mark Savolis, Head Archivist at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA announced that most of the Association newsletters are now online and available for research. The issues that are available date from 1947 to 2006. The URL is:

<http://www.holycross.edu/archives-and-special-collections/octofoil>

Or go to the Holy Cross Website to the Archives/Spec. Collections page and look for Special Collections Digital Collections.

The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA Special Collections Library is the official depository of the Association's historic documents. Many 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division veterans have also donated to the Archives. The late Rev. Edward T. Connors, the beloved chaplain of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, was a graduate of The College of the Holy Cross. After WWII he was the pastor at Immaculate Conception parish in Worcester, MA from 1952-1980 where he created a Ninth Infantry Division Association Memorial for "his boys" (some 4581 in WWII and 250 in Vietnam) lost during the war.

Many thanks to Mark for his dedication to this project!



## Pen to Paper - Letters to Loved Ones



1031st T.S.s.  
Flight 153-Barracks 1832  
B.T.C. #5-A.A.F.T.T.C.  
Kearns Field, Utah  
February 10-March 10, 1943

Dear Mom and Dad:

I've forgotten when I was in touch with you last, but here goes another letter. As yet I haven't gotten any mail but I think some will probably get here by Friday or maybe tonight. Everything is OK and another guy and I really had a swell time last night. We went down to the service club and had a dollar dinner. We had a great big T-bone steak, french fries, apple pie, salad, milk and later a chocolate sundae. It was excellent!

I forgot to tell you that I get a \$10,000 life insurance policy and also have invested \$6.25 into war bonds each month. I only get paid \$16 this month, so I don't know if I'll be sending much cash back. This thing about not needing money is a farce. You're always needing this or that. I think I have about \$30 on me right now which isn't too bad. Haven't been playing cards, by the way either – only four times. Came out about 50 cents to the good.

I'm really beginning to like the life. The weather is bad and the food not so hot, but the fellows are great and even though we all do a lot of yelling about everything, we like it. Started drill yesterday – saw some movies on military courtesy and about two hours of drill. Had a half-hour gas drill today and had to have on the gas masks throughout. They actually walk out and throw tear gas at you. Later on will have to go into a gas chamber and stand there a while in it before hitting the fresh air. Tomorrow we have to be ready for drill by 7:45 A.M. We get up at 5:45 AM and must dress, eat, make our beds and clean barracks before drill. We have 24 days of basic training and then I don't know what will happen. I should be sent to my school assignment.

Wish you would send me the Kodachromes to look over; also my heavy socks and all of my handkerchiefs. I could also use some vitamins which are good for fighting colds. Ask Doc Pfohl which would be best and then send me the strongest. I have a "Kearns Cough" but it's nothing serious. I'm greasing my chest with mentholatum and wearing a towel around my neck. Most of this is purely for precaution because I don't want to come down with anything. I'm going to a dance down at the service club tomorrow night. It is a military ball, I'll have you know. Nothing more for now except everything is OK and there's no need to worry. Will write later – tell everyone – hello!..... Love... Jack

July 29, 1944

Dear Pop and All,

Well, how is everything going with you all? Fine, I hope. I am well. I had a little trouble with my stomach for a couple of days but it's OK now. I've been getting a lot of mail lately. It only takes 9 to 10 days for me to get mail from back there. Much quicker than when I was in England. I'm still getting a few stray letters sent to my old address. And I still have my first box to get since I left the states. Someone else must like candy and cookies. It doesn't look as if I'll get a chance to write you all big long letters in answer to all the ones I've received for a long time. Well I must close. Answer soon. Lots of love to all.

P. S. I was promoted to Staff Sergeant on July 20.

Clarence



*The following article is a continuation of one printed in the last issue of The Octofoil. It is an excerpt from a 1967 issue of Octofoil, one of seven published for the soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam.*

## A NEW COMMANDER

June 1 marked another milestone in the history of the 9th Division. On that day, Major General George G. O'Connor assumed command of the Old Reliables, and Major General Eckhardt departed to become the Deputy Commander of II Field Force, Vietnam. General Eckhardt had commanded the Division for 15 months, from the first day of the new Division at Fort Riley, through all the phases of training, deployment and the initial combat success in Vietnam.

Under the direction of the new Division commander, operations in the lowlands of Long An Province, Dinh Tuong Province and the jungle area surrounding the Bearcat base camp continued.

## COMBAT – JUNE THROUGH OCTOBER

Months of Delta fighting had taught the 9th Division that in order to avoid being reduced to a limited role, they must continue their efforts toward mobility. For the first time in 105 years, the U.S. Army and Navy teamed up to form a mobile waterborne fighting unit. Called the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF), the striking force is made up of two Battalions from the 2d Brigade and Naval Task Force 117. Operating from a fleet of 100 Naval vessels, the MRF conducts combat operations in the marshlands of the Mekong Delta formed by hundreds of waterways draining from the Tibetan plateau to the South China Sea.

Participating in action on another front, the Division's 1st brigade, the 1st Australian Task Force, and two Battalions of Vietnamese Marines launched the tri-nation Operation PADDINGTON in the jungles of Phuoc Tuy Province on July 10. The six-day sweep, designed to open previously Viet Cong-dominated jungle, resulting in 93 enemy killed

Only 11 days later the Division was again challenged by the enemy. The action occurred when elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment were conducting a major jungle-clearing operation along Highway 20 in the Long Khanh Province. Suddenly struck by an attack from an estimated battalion of the 275 Viet Cong Regiment, the lead vehicle launched a counterattack that cut a swarth through the enemy force. The Viet Cong broke contact after an hour of fierce combat. Combining the battlefield after the engagement, cavalryman confirmed 90 enemy dead and recovered 23 small arms and one 57mm recoilless rifle.

In early August, a joint American-Vietnamese force closed in on a suspected enemy stronghold in the Cam Son Secret Zone during the eight-day Operation CORONADO II. When the operation had ended, the Allies had killed 285 Viet Cong and captured 33 individual weapons. The action included infantrymen of the MRF, Naval Task Force 117 and Vietnamese rangers, marines and infantry units.

Encouraged by the success of CORONADO II, soldiers of the 2d Brigade, two battalions from the 3d brigade and ARVN units continued combat probes into the enemy stronghold during mid-September. Totals for the 27-day Operation CORONADO V included 330 enemy killed, 11 individual weapons captured, one crew-served weapon seized and 11,200 rounds of small arms ammunition taken from enemy supply caches.

On September 21, following months of planning and prepara-

tion by the 9th Division, the 2200-man Royal Thai Army Volunteer Regiment landed in Vietnam to become the fifth free world force to assist the South Vietnamese government. The Thai unit, called the Queen's Cobra, then moved into a specially developed area at Bearcat and launched combat operations from the 9th Division headquarters basecamp.

The largest arms cache ever found on Vietnam soil was uncovered by the 9th Division on October 8 during Operation AKRON III – a jungle-clearing operation 13 miles southeast of Bearcat. Search of the massive system of bunkers and tunnels found in the area yielded 1,140 weapons, nearly 95,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 3,634 grenades and 452 mortar rounds. Included in the giant weapons total were four 75mm howitzers unearthed by the Division's 1st Brigade—this marked the first time artillery pieces had been seized from the Viet Cong by U.S. forces.

## OTHER DIVISION ACTIVITIES

While combat operations were being conducted, extensive civic action and base camp development programs were being pursued by the 9th Division. Eleven days after the first increment landed at Vung Tau, the first Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) was conducted in the Bien Hoa Province Hamlet of Tam Phuoc. Vietnamese citizens were treated by the medical teams for a variety of respiratory diseases, malaria and tropical skin diseases.

By the beginning of December, battalion and company level Civic Action teams, directed by the Division's Civil Affairs section, had treated 305,500 Vietnamese patients. Special projects such as commodity distributions, the rebuilding of schools, dispensaries and homes, and the repairing of roads and bridges received attention by the Division as it reached out to better the standard of living of the Vietnamese people.

The 9th Division base camps at Bearcat and Dong Tam expanded rapidly. Roads were improved, tropical buildings replaced, tents and recreation facilities were constructed at the bases. During the summer months, spacious service clubs were opened at both of the main 9th Division camps. An air-conditioned 5000-volume library, an Olympic-size swimming pool, and a combination driving range- miniature golf course were also constructed in the Bearcat Community Center under projects sponsored by the Special Services Section.

## COMBAT RELIABLES

Innovation and achievement followed the day-by-day progress of the Old Reliables as they pursued their first year of combat and civic action operations in Vietnam. Band music sparked MEDCAPS; weapons, such as the 60mm mortar, were brought out of retirement for use in Delta warfare; and giant Navy ships became infantry barracks as the 9th Infantry tackled Viet Cong forces.

The Old Reliables battered Main Force Viet Cong Battalions when the enemy chose to stand and fight the might of the American forces. They repelled lightning attacks by small bands of guerrillas in desperate raids on 9th Division outposts and patrols. Teams from the Division brought comforting medical care and technological know-how to the villages and hamlets of Vietnam. In its transition from training at Fort Riley to combat in Vietnam, the 9th Division has proven its ability as a reliable fighting force.

## **If we don't remember then who will?**

### **By Yuri Beckers**

This is a question that I have been asking myself nearly every day, ever since I was a very young boy. I am a Dutch man, currently living in Copenhagen, Denmark, and very dedicated to learn and provide the history of the great 9th Infantry Division.

The "Old Reliables". Those who grew old and still with us today are witness to the days of war. Young men, barely old enough to buy a beer, left behind everything they loved. Their homes, their families, their sweethearts, their work, their dreams, and went to foreign countries to fight against the Nazi terror that took over Europe. They traveled by boats, trucks and walked many, many miles on foot. They fought many battles, and created friendships and bonds that last forever. They also paid a high price for our freedom. Today, these men are slowly leaving us, one by one. What will happen after all of them are gone? Will people stop remembering them? What will happen to their stories, their World War 2 pictures, their uniforms... who will remember them? It has to be us, the "younger generation" who must remember them, and make sure to preserve all of this.

### **How do I remember them?**

In 2002 I started to look into the World War 2 history of the 9th Infantry Division. It took a lot of effort, but slowly I managed to get more and more information about this outstanding Division. Over the years I have collected official documents coming from the National Archives. Hundreds of pages of After Action Reports, Journals, pictures maps, video footage, unit histories and books. It was a long, difficult and costly process, but it became my passion and goal to do this. The men and the actions of the 9th Infantry Division HAD to be remembered. During my 15 years of research I have been in touch with over 400 family members of Old Reliable veterans, and today I can count some of them as my best friends. I have talked to over 45 veterans in order to preserve their stories. I have traveled to the US to meet some of them. Sadly, only a handful of them are still with us. It was important to make sure their stories were heard, recorded and preserved for future generations.

### **Remember them - Website**

After realizing that there wasn't a good website devoted to the World War 2 actions of the great Ninth, I created and am maintaining the website [www.9thinfantrydivision.net](http://www.9thinfantrydivision.net). It provides a lot of general information about the Division, including pictures, tribute pages for the men, battle reports and interesting articles. A special project is the work to find out more about ALL of the men who are still Missing In Action. This way, the names on the Wall of Missing are getting a face through a picture, and a story. Also, with the help of a few relatives of veterans, we are creating a huge searchable database where thousands of names can be looked up, and information can be added or found. Through my website, I am also making people aware of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, and I am doing my best to get some new people to join.

### **Remember them - Books**

My biggest project at the moment, is the work on the book I am writing. The book deals about the actions of the 9th Infantry Division during the Battles in the Hurtgen Forest area between September 1944 and February 1945. Many families and veterans have shared pictures, journals, memoirs and stories with me that can be included in the book. You can imagine the value

of having collected all these stories. This way, the history of these men will be preserved for future generations. I am still searching for more stories and pictures - anything is appreciated.

I am currently in the planning phase for more publications. The Normandy Campaign is next, and a possible pictorial book. The demand for an updated official unit history is high, and I will look into that as well.

### **Remember them - 9th Infantry Division Exhibition**

At the moment, work is being done to secure a spot where we can present items used by the men of the 9th Infantry Division as well. A permanent exhibition, displaying items such as uniforms, pictures, battle displays and much more in such a way, that the complete World War 2 history can be told to the visitors.

### **Remember them - My research**

I am leading a 9th Infantry Division Research Group, which provide information to those who seek it about the service of a soldier, or a battle or other event. So far I have personally helped over 350 people to information about a 9th Infantry Division soldier.

### **Looking for uniform and other related items**

Please support me in my efforts. Maybe you know someone who has a dusty box full of documents, pictures, old Association newsletters or journals standing in the attic gathering dust. Maybe you have uniform items like jackets, shirts, pants, a helmet or any other items hanging in a dark wardrobe, or in a box somewhere? Please consider donating any of these items to my Research Group. We can make special arrangements for how these things are used, but the important thing is, that I want to make something special for future generations to learn about the history of the 9th Infantry Division. We must remember the men. Our freedom came at a high price. I live in Europe, where people are very interested in keeping the memory of these men alive.

I am writing all of this, to make people aware that I am doing everything I can to make sure that the men of the 9th Infantry Division will forever be remembered.

With the plans for several future publications and a permanent exhibition, I can make sure that the actions and men will get the honor they deserve. I hope to attend the Ninth Infantry Division Reunion in 2018 to talk about all of this in person.

### **If we don't remember, then who will?**

For any questions, or if you would like to share or donate any materials, please contact me:

### **Address:**

Yuri Beckers

[Redacted Address]

### **Research website:**

[www.9thinfantrydivision.net](http://www.9thinfantrydivision.net)  
[info@9thinfantrydivision.net](mailto:info@9thinfantrydivision.net)

**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES  
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) - INCOME TAX BASIS FROM 07/01/16 TO 06/30/17**

Prepared by Mize Houser and Co. P.A.

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Current Qtr.</b>	<b>YTD</b>
General Fund Income	\$482	\$861
Octofoil Fund Income	755	1,170
Memorial Fund Income	25	1,679
FFCF Income	0	25
Vets Travel Income	0	3,275
71st—2016 Reunion Income	0	5,221
72nd—2017 Reunion Income	<u>7,000</u>	<u>10,250</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 8,262</b>	<b>\$24,177</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Office Expenses	0	416
Postage Expenses	85	193
Printing and Copies	429	1,444
Supplies Expense	0	601
Accounting Expense	375	1,950
Entertainment	0	3,894
Food/Catering	1,025	4,630
Lodging and Travel	621	2,439
Donations	<u>0</u>	<u>750</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,555</b>	<b>\$16,337</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$5,708</b>	<b>\$7,840</b>

**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES  
AND EQUITY-INCOME TAX BASIS 12/31/2016**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

General Fund Cash	\$25,176
Octofoil Subscription Cash	8,519
Octofoil Library Project Cash	615
Memorial Fund Cash	4,709
FFCF Cash	760
Veterans Travel Fund	3,275
68th—2013 Reunion Cash	1,686
Reunion Insurance Fund	5,000
69th—2014 Reunion Cash	4,280
70th—2015 Reunion Cash	3,062
71st—2016 Reunion Cash	2,592
72nd—2017 Reunion	6,407

**Total Current Assets** **\$66,080**  
**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$66,080**

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**Net Assets**

Unrestricted Net Assets—Beg	\$58,240
Current Surplus (Deficit)	7,840

**Total Net Assets** **\$66,080**  
**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** **\$66,080**



**Officers and Board of Governors  
2017-2018**

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John Edd Baswell, Vice President  
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JoAnn Bryant, Secretary  
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**Publishers/Editors The Octofoil**

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Theda Ray  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]



**THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

(July 1 \_\_\_\_ to June 30 \_\_\_\_)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

9-DIGIT ZIP  
CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP FEE:**

**Amount Due**

Regular Annual Member (\$15.00 per year)

(9- Infantry Division WWII Veterans,  
9- Infantry Division Vietnam War Veterans,  
Widows, Spouses, Lineal Descendants)

Associate Member (\$10.00 per year)

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

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE**

**CHECK ✓ MEMBERSHIP STATUS:**

Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran Spouse or Widow \_\_\_\_\_

Lineal Descendant \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association**

Send to: Clare Irwin, Secretary

Rev. March 2016

***The Octofoil***

**Subscription Form**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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9-Digit Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Check payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association**

Send to: THEDA RAY  
Publisher, the Octofoil

Rev. March 2016



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