

MANCHU DRAGON TALES



NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Manchu) Association U.S. Army

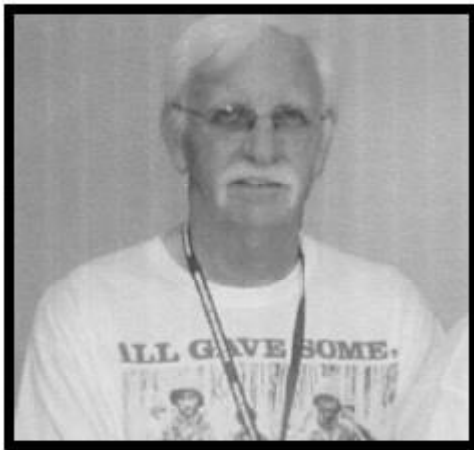


ISSUE NO. 52 June, 2017

www.manchuassociation.org

E-MAIL: 69larryritter70@gmail.com

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



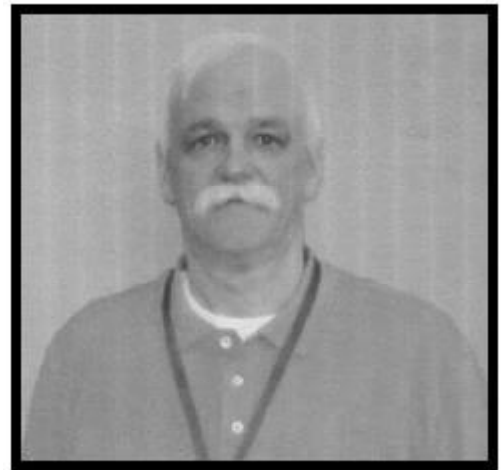
I would like to take time to Honor our Service Men from all Branches that were a part of the D-Day Invasion. What a sacrifice that thousands made on those days. Some returned home but many gave their lives. I salute them.

My grade school teacher and coach was a part of D-Day but few of us knew that. Delbert Stanley, Hfrom Monticello, Illinois, was in the U.S. Coast Guard and was assigned to the USS Bayfield. Rear Admiral Don Pardee Moon was the Commander. Yogi Berra was a gunner's mate on this ship. I guess that is why Delbert was a Yankee fan.

On June 6, 1944 D-Day Delbert served as a pilot of one of the Bayfield landing crafts that unloaded their troops onto Utah Beach. The 2nd day, June 7, 1944, the Bayfield landing crafts moved to Omaha Beach to drop troops and carried the injured back to the Bayfield. He like many did what they had to do.

His family did not know this about their Dad. As a student I don't remember the D-Day invasion being discussed much in his history class. Delbert was like many men that served but they didn't speak of their experiences.
Again, I SALUTE these Men!

COMMENTS AND UPDATES FROM THE SECRETARY



SPECIAL ISSUE RECOGNIZING MEN WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN WORLD WAR TWO

D-DAY!

Hello.

This is a special newsletter to acknowledge the men of the ninth regiment who fought and died in World War Two; some who went in on D-Day and the rest on the following days after.

I hope we all take the time to remember these individuals on June 6th. KUFT

My Uncle was with the 1st division and went into Omaha Beach and was wounded 3 times and lived to talk about it. I asked him on the 50th anniversary of D-Day and he did tell me about it. That was the first time that he had told the story to anyone. His name was John Langlois, Jr. RIP

ORGANIZATION REVISED & OFFICIAL

PresidentRoger Dyson
 1st Vice PresidentCharles Groff
 2nd Vice PresidentRonald K. Price
 Sec/Treas.....Larry Ritter
 Chaplain.....Rev. James L. O'Brien
 Sergeant At Arms.....Mike Ardoin
 Parliamentarian.....Frank Kraft
 Historians.....Raymond A. Tarbusi
 Rolfe L. Hillman, III, Al Castilio and Larry Ritter
 4/9 Manchu Liasison.....Ronald K. Price
 Public Information OfficeLarry Ritter


MANCHU DEVOTIONAL

D-Day June 6th (Tuesday) exactly like the day in 1944. History has told us, the most famous landing in our lifetime. Why!! It was a time when our country was united. Our military was dedicated to defeat the axis and bring peace to the world. It was a time when you could pray to God and no one was screaming you cannot do that. You cared about your brother-in-arms. You could keep up the faith and keep up the fire. God bless America.

Chaplain James O'Brien

MANCHU ASSOCIATION

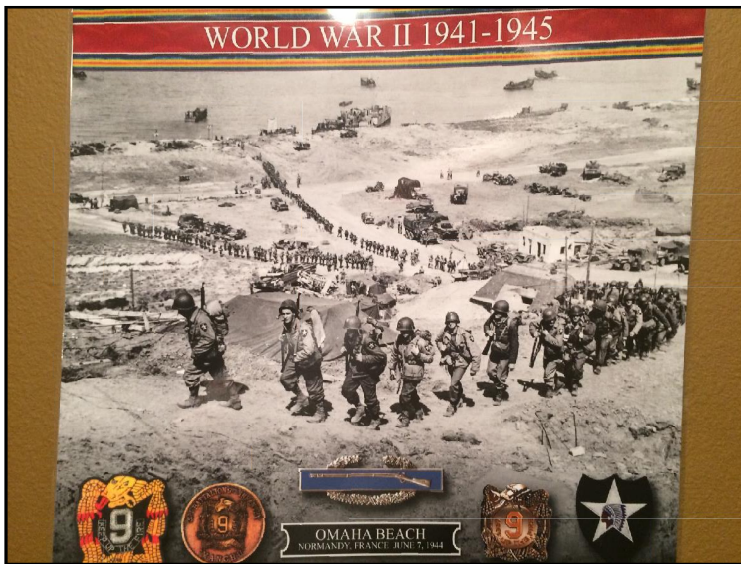
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:
 Association President; Members,
 Association 2nd Vice President, Past
 Presidents, Gil Blue, Ken Toeppe, 1SG
 (Ret), William Ditzhazy; Past Secretaries/
 Treasurers, Dante Degni, CSM Riley Miller,
 Oscar Fettig, Raymond Tarbusi, Wayne E.
 Stephens; and the following COMMITTEE
 CHAIRMEN: Constitution & Bylaws, Jack
 Woodall; Membership: Roger Dyson;
 Reunion, Charles Groff; Sunshine, Rev.
 James O'Brien; Budget, Larry
 Ritter/Roger Dyson.

MANCHU MISSION STATEMENT

We members of the 9th Inf. Regt. (Manchu) Assoc. United States Army, pledge to preserve the history and name of the 9th Infantry Regiment, and to support the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; to support our Active Ninth Infantry Regiment (Manchu) soldiers and the United States Army Regimental system. We shall promote comradeship and esprit de corps among our members; set examples of unselfish patriotism, and memorialize the patriotic deeds of the members of the 9th Inf. Regt. (Manchu).

MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT WHO SERVED IN WWII

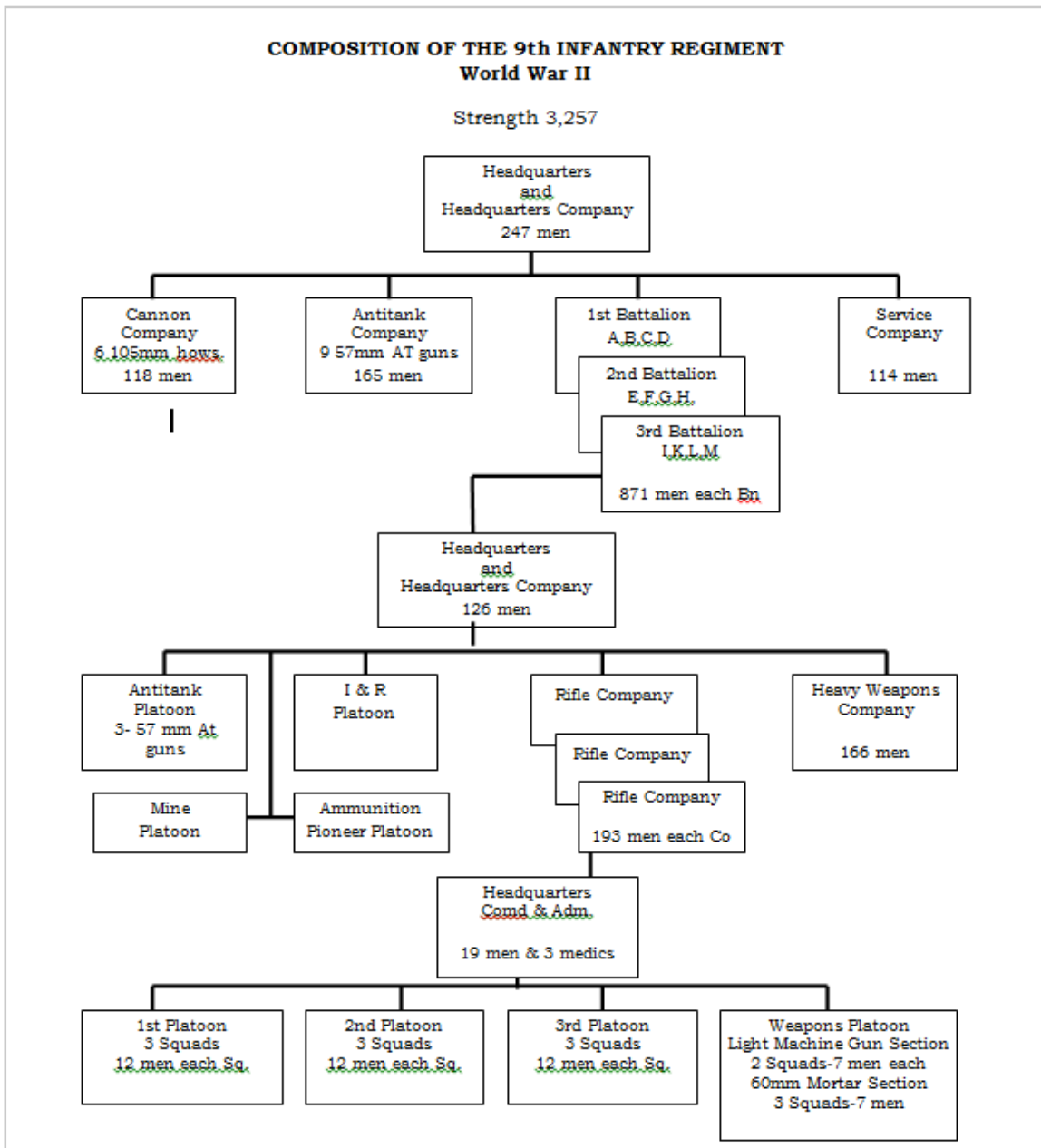
RICHARD H. LAMMERS G CO.	HENRY C.BLACK K CO.	JAMES LEMING I CO.
ROGER ENGLISH I CO.	GLYNN G.RABY H CO.	JOHN FRALEY I CO.
THOMAS V.WORKMAN G CO.	LOUIS H.WILLIAMS B CO.	ROBERT FULMER D CO.
STANLEY SORRELL C CO.	MARK GRIFFIN M CO.	NEAL GALLAGHER F CO.
RAYMOND A.TARABUSI I CO.	GREGORY GRAYDON A CO.	GERALD GUETTLER D CO.
R.M.BARANOUSKAS M&L CO.	FILLMORE GOLDSCHIMDT K CO.	BRUCE HALL HQ CO.
NORMAN K.FRICKER C CO.	HAROLD CONSTANTINE	RAYMOND HANCH M CO.
CHARLES SIPPLE,JR. F CO.	GLEN HARVEY	MARVIN HARDY G CO.
OSCAR K.FETTIG M CO.	WILLIAM JOHNSON	RAY MARTINEZ A CO.
GORDON N.GEORGE M CO.	DAVID JOHNSON G CO.	CHARLES ROGERS C CO.
FRANK L.FIFE A CO.	RODRIC MORROUGH,JR. M CO.	LINWOOD ROMIG MED CO.
EDWARD B.HOWARD K CO.	PETER PERNA G CO.	JAMES ROSSER AT CO.
BENJAMIN L.JONES HQ CO.	LAWRENCE SHOEMAKER POW K CO.	FRANK ROYER K CO.
JAMES C.KRITIKOS C CO.	KEN YOUNG I CO.	GENE SANTO E CO.
JOSEPH W.ALOIA G CO.	MORT WALKER	EUGENE SCHANEFELT G CO.
HERMAN F.BYRAM F CO.	WILLIAM AMLING A CO.	SAL SCIALO
THOMAS G.MOREHEAD G CO.	JAMES ANDERSON D CO.	GILMORE SIMON E CO.
HARRY L.DUNNO H CO.	GERALD ARMSTRONG A CO.	CHARLES SIPPLE F CO.
STEVE J.MORIN B CO.	FREDERICK BAHN E CO.	ROBERT SMITH K CO.
RALPH V.STEELE XO	ROBERT BOLIO D CO.	HENRY SNEAD MCO.
HAROLD C.AYRES C CO.	WILLIAM BOSSIDY C CO.	DAN VANN M CO.
NORMAN BOYDEN,JR. B CO.	THOMAS HARRIS E CO.	HAROLD WACHS E CO.
BOB BRADY F CO.	HERMAN HAYDON K CO.	JAMES WHITWORTH HQ CO.
HERBERT BRIGHT B CO.	JAMES HOLCOMB	DAVID WILSON A CO.
WILLIAM BRILL K CO.	F.V.HOWELL G CO.	ROBERT SULTZABERGER
KEN BUCKLEY H CO.	EDMUND IWANIKI C CO.	KEN MC COMBS D CO.
TOM CARR 3 RD BN	B.L.JONES HQ CO.	JOHN MC MORROW K CO.
ANTHONY COCCO	LEO JONES	KEN MULLINS M CO.
ISADORE COHEN C CO.	CLARENCE JUNEK E CO.	EDWIN NORRIS K CO.
RODGER COONEY,JR. HQ CO.	C.A. KELLOGG SVC CO.	EDWARD ODELL G CO.
JOSEPH COPPOLA I CO.	HERMAN KLUNDER G CO.	JAMES PARKS SR. A CO.
MARTIN DETLOFF B CO.	MEL KUTCHERA CN CO.	REX RICE SR. C CO.
CARMEN DI GIOVANNI A CO.	HENRY LEE L CO.	JOHN FITZPATRICK
CHARLES FABIAN D CO.	RICHARD LEWIS HQ CO.	JERRY MANBER A CO.



Famous picture of Omaha Beach



Normandy American Cemetery, Omaha Beach



Operation Overlord

A little-known fact in history is the part that men from the 9th Infantry Regiment played in the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. For Operation Overlord, the Invasion of France, the military formed special units to breach the beach obstacles on Omaha Beach on D-day.

These units, called Assault Gap Teams, were made up of one Naval Combat Demolition Unit, and a 27-man Army engineer unit. A tank dozer and two Sherman Tanks would support each unit, with the crews for these tanks coming from the 741st and 743rd Tank Battalions and the 610th Engineer Light Equipment Company. The bulk of the Engineers came from the 146th and 299th Combat Engineer Battalions.

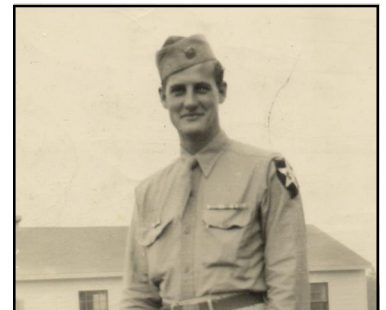
These Navy and Army units only had two weeks to train before the Invasion. The final composition of the group would be officially known as the Special Engineer Task Force (SETF). It would be attached to the 1st Infantry Division for the assault on Omaha Beach.

The SETF was still short of manpower, so about 150 Engineers, from the 2nd Engineer Battalion and Infantrymen from the 9th, 23rd and 38th Infantry Regiments of the Second Infantry Division were added to bring the unit to full strength, which now numbered around 1050 men.

The Gap Teams were composed of 1 officer, 25 enlisted men and one medic. Each Gap Team was assigned three to five men from the Second Division. The plan was for the teams to go in on H-hour before the assault troops and clear sixteen fifty-foot wide gaps for the assault troops to go through. Following the Assault Gap Teams were eight Gap Support Teams that would land behind them, not more than eight minutes afterwards. Some of the men from the 9th Infantry who are known to have gone in on D-Day are listed below, three of them would be killed on Omaha Beach June 6, 1944. This is not a complete list but a list compiled through personal research.

T/Sgt. George Way
Sgt. Henry Doar
Pvt J.C. Blanton KIA
Lt. Alfred Toth
Pvt John C. Freeman
Pvt Joe C. Rivas KIA
Pfc Lester Horn KIA
Sgt. Fred Walls
Sgt. Guyell Thomas
Sgt. Marion Gray
1st Sgt. Victor Rodriguez
Sgt. Thomas Caldron
Lt. Norman Fricker
Pfc. Edward E. Upshaw

Sgt. Henry Doar recalled the nightmare of that day. When the ramp went down, he stepped off and went into water over his head. As he struggled to reach the surface, Sgt. Fred Walls pulled him up and helped him get to shore. Sgt. Doar states "I had put my rifle around me like a bow, but I didn't realize I still had it because I had lost the Bangalore Torpedo and most of my equipment. So, on shore I picked up another rifle, I went in carrying two rifles."



The machine gun fire was devastating and mortar and artillery fire raked the Beach. There were a lot of dead bodies floating in the water and laying on the Beach, as well as all kinds of equipment. He took cover behind a seawall. It was utter confusion and so many men were resting against the seawall. Some were wounded; others were just dazed and confused. There were so many bodies on the Beach, but the body that captured his attention the most was that of a dead GI clutching a hand grenade in his hand with the pin pulled out.

Sgt. Henry Doar was a member of I Company who landed on D-Day with the SETF. Landing on Omaha Beach as part of the Gap Support Teams Sgt. Doar would use everything he had learned during Ranger training at Camp McCoy in 1943 to stay alive that day. Photo taken of Henry Doar when he was back stateside recovering from his wounds received in combat.

continued on next page ...

... continued from previous page

Sgt. Fred Walls who went in on the same LCM with Sgt. Doar, remembered he was carrying a satchel charge and all his gear, it was 6:40 a.m. "A bunch of the men drowned in the water right off the Beach. They ran right off the end of the ramp into deep water". According to Sgt. Walls, they were wearing this wrap around life perseveres; it had two tubes on it that inflated. Sgt. Walls states "The thing wasn't worth a damn. All they were good for was to get you drowned." He got his life preserver unhooked and got it way under his straps and went on. Going a shore, he grabbed Sgt. Henry Doar, pulling him back up.

Sgt. Marion Gray had the going in the first wave. When the ramp went down, Sgt. Gray jumped off his LCM and sank in about eight feet of water. Using his rifle as a cane, he pushed himself up would gulp some air and sink back down. The devastation on the beach was unforgettable "In the water I saw many dead soldiers, and more on the beach, floating wooden boxes, and other gear."

Coming ashore, Sgt. Gray dragged a wounded soldier out of the water, only to see him get hit again in the neck and shoulder, and lose his grip on him.'

They were facing an intense and fierce machine gun fire raining on the men from the cliffs overhead. Sgt. Gray's rifle was full of sand, so he picked up a rifle from a dead GI, and ran across the sand and shingles to the base of the cliff. As he sat there looking out to his left he saw a tank sinking that had just come off a landing craft. Sgt. Gray would spend most of the day at the base of the cliff.

Lead elements of the 2nd division land on Omaha beach photo US Army

Another Manchu who went in on D-Day was a medic, Sgt. George Way. He had joined the Regiment in 1941, at Fort Sam Houston. Sgt. Way was assigned to the Medical detachment, driving a Jeep. In Wales, He waterproofed the jeep and could drive it water. It was then loaded on a Transport and head out to France. On D-day, off the shore of Normandy, a barge came looking for any Medical units or medical supplies for debarkation; they were needed on the Beach in a hurry. The barge took a



large crane and pulled his jeep and trailer on to a landing craft He states: "I climbed down cargo net on to the landing craft. My Jeep was heavily loaded and waterproofed, ready to go into the water if necessary. However, I got lucky. They drove the landing craft so far up on the Beach, I didn't even get the tires wet. There were truckloads of causalities from the First Division. I did what I could, but there was no organized

continued on next page ...

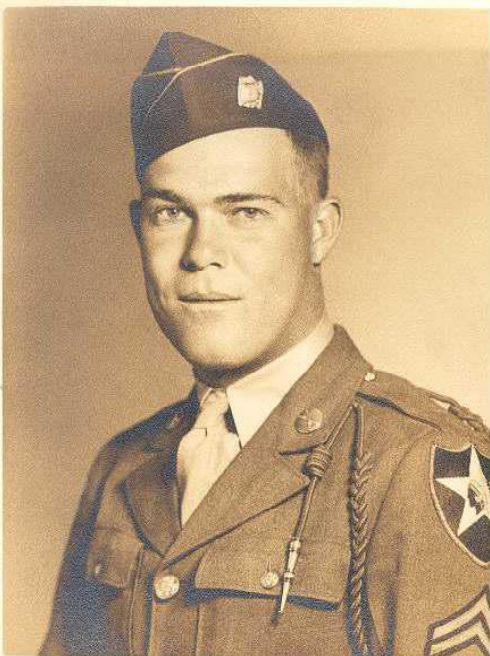
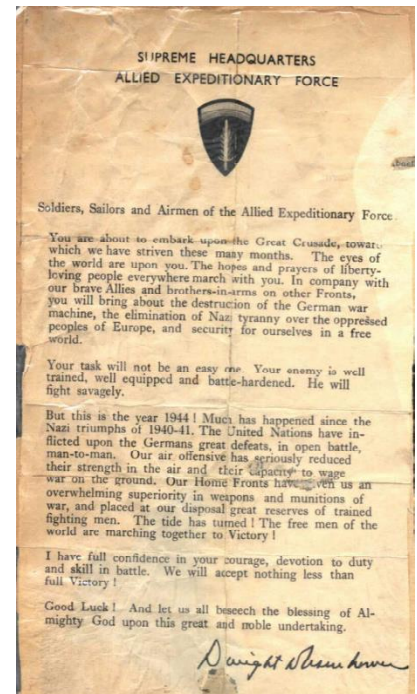
... continued from previous page

unit to work with. It was a terrible day for those poor boys.” These few men lead the way for the Regiment, for the entire Regiment was off shore being held as a reserve in case the 1st Infantry Division failed. If everything went according to plan they would land the next day.

It was the afternoon of June 7, 1944 and the Ninth Combat Team, composed of the Regiment plus attached units from the Second Division would be leading the Second Infantry Division into battle. At 2.00 p.m. the first group, the Combat Team Headquarters Control Group, and Company G loaded on to the LCI-POT-494. It only took 15 minutes to load the 228 men on the LCI. The Landing Craft landed around 3:15 p.m. on Easy Red, near exit E-1. A sand bar stopped the landing craft, and the ramps on both sides were lowered. Two sailors with large ropes around their shoulders descended into the water to help secure the ramps.

Colonel Hirschfelder was the first man to walk ashore, followed by Major Ralph Steele. They walked in water that was shoulder high and threaded their way to land through dead Americans. Major Steele would later reflect on it: “We walked gingerly, fearing we might step on a mine. There was chaos.” The beach was cluttered with wrecked landing crafts and vehicles. There were artillery shells falling in the area, and there was no organization. The Engineer Special Brigade, who was supposed to provide guides and lead the men across the beach to the Transit Area, was not around. Colonel Hirschfelder had planned ahead in case of such an emergency. He had set up three Control Groups. One Group, under Major John L. Hanby, was designed to operate if the Beach Battalion was not functioning. It would direct the crossing of the beach and direct the landing troops to the Transit Area. Lt. Col. William McKinley was responsible for the location of the Transit Area and the temporary allotment of the area until released to an Assembly Area. The third Group, under Captain Carl W. Miller, was to proceed to the Assembly Area with a Billeting Party as soon as its location was obtained from the Beach Liaison Officers.

Leaflet giving to members of the 9th Infantry Regiment before landing ashore in France. Invasion message (right) was given to Sgt. Doar on board ship as they headed to France. Sgt. Doar kept the message and carried it with him through the war.



Corporal Willie E. Haley joined the 9th at Fort Sam Houston in July of 1942. He was with HQ Company 3rd Battalion until after the Battle of the Bulge, when he was transferred to K Company. Photo from Glenn Haley his son.

The rest of the afternoon, the men of the Ninth Combat Team climbed down cargo nets and loaded on to landing crafts that would take them in to Omaha Beach. Each remembered it in his own way and from his own perspective. The following are stories from the book “Keep Up the Fire”.

For Pvt. Ernesto Martinez who landed with Company A, the landing was quite scary. They had loaded on the boats and he thought they were going to Italy till someone told him no, they were going to land in France. After loading on the LCI and landing on the Beach, then seeing the dead bodies on the beach, his First thoughts were “Oh! Oh! This is scary!” Private Martinez would overcome his fear and receive the Silver Star later in combat.

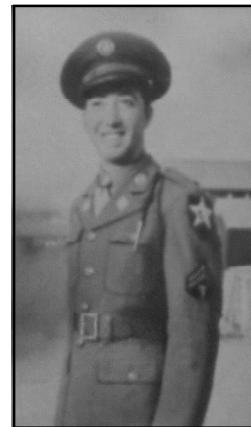
continued on next page ...

... continued from previous page

Lieutenant Ray Baranouskas, a Platoon Leader with M Company, remembered it was an unforgettable event and scene. There were Planes of all types all over the sky, boats and ships in every direction as far the eye could see, empty landing craft, the dead bodies on the beach -American, German, and civilians. There was equipment of all kinds strewn on the beach. There was a strong smell of cordite, and the sniper fire, yet as well trained as they were, at their age it was still rather exciting.

In Private Willie E. Haley's group, they had taken some seasickness pills, and then there was a delay while they unloaded another ship that hit a mine. Then they took another seasickness pill and most of the men were about to fall asleep. The landing craft he rode into the beach got them in without even getting their feet wet.

For T/Sgt. Kenneth Goodyear a Medic with the Anti-Tank Company coming ashore was an experience. When they were loading on the LST, some of the men fell from the railing of the ship, some hit their heads on the edge of the LST and drowned. When the ramp went down, they expected the men to just walk off the end of the ramp into the water. Goodyear was only 5'5", so two taller fellows assisted him from either side so he wouldn't go under. They walked between 20 to 30 yards in water before they hit dry sand. "Our first night on French soil was very cold and wet. Although we had what was referred to as water-proof clothing, we still got quite damp."



For Private John McCall, it was a little different. As their landing craft a LCP, came in, it dropped its ramp in what seem to be knee-deep water. The first man went out, and the second went. He could see them about five yards apart, so he stepped out. Then the two men in front disappeared. Next thing Private McCall knew, he was under water. Somehow, he made it a shore, soaked to the bone. Upon reaching the top of the hill from the beach, Pvt. McCall saw a sight that was a grim reminder of what lay ahead. A stack of dead GI's with their combat shoes removed waiting for burial.

Sgt. Stanley Sorrell had the same experience. They dumped them in water over their heads. He had a heck of a time, carrying all the ammunition he could, and everyone was all wet. They went in and hit the beach, watching for machine gun fire, small arms fire, mortar, artillery, and mines. On the beach, there were the big railroad rails crisscrossed and tied together with a mine at the bottom. There were stacks of dead men everywhere.

By the evening of the 7th, all the Regiment was ashore, but still had no transportation, and lacked its heavier automatic weapons, mortars, and communications. The Regiment assembled east of St. Laurent and the following day, the 1st and 2nd Battalion spent the day clearing out snipers behind the beach, between St. Laurent and Vierville.

It was dangerous process. Not only did a soldier stand a chance of being shot by the snipers he was looking for, many of the areas still had not been cleared of mines. That evening in an instant the Regiment had its first officer and NCO as casualties and it had not even entered combat as a unit yet. 1st Lt. Melvin Graham and First Sergeant John H. Clarke were killed when Lt. Graham stepped on a S mine. These two men were only the beginning of what would seem like an endless stream of casualties over the next year.

The above Ten Shillings English bill was signed by forty-nine members of the 1st Platoon Company A, 9th Infantry. This note signed May 3, 1944 one month before they landed on Omaha beach. Of the forty-nine

continued on next page ...

... continued from previous page

who signed the note Sixty-seven percent would be casualties before the end of 1944. Eight would be killed in action, twenty-five would be wounded in action and four would be Prisoners of War

It would be long hard eleven months to victory for the men of the 9th Infantry.

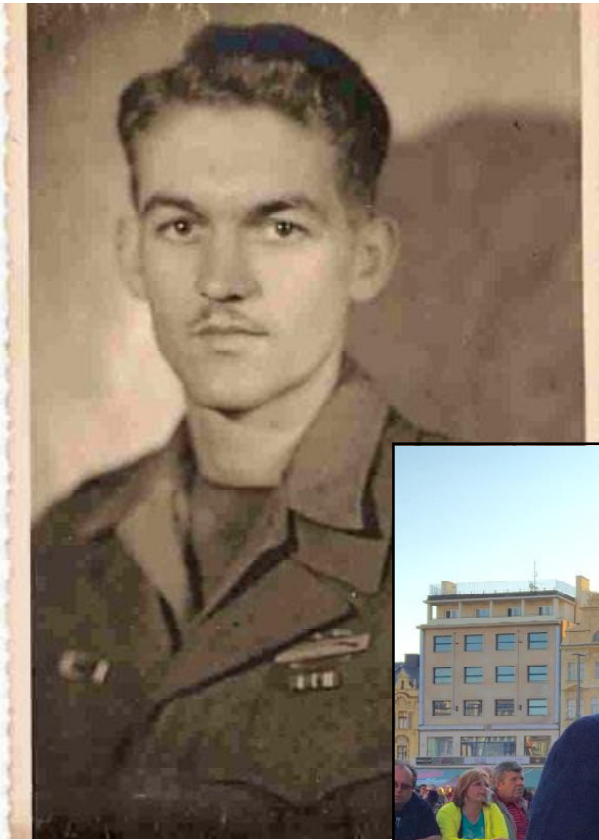
They had gained a foothold and they were there to stay. Ahead laid more battles and more casualties. For being part of the invasion force men who were with the 9th infantry for the June 6-7 landing were awarded the bronze arrowhead on their ETO ribbon.

As we look back seventy-three years later, we must not forget the courage and devotion to duty these men had on June 6-7, 1944. So it has fallen upon us to “Keep Up The Memories” and not only to remember these men but those who came before them and those that followed from the Battle of Lundy’s Lane (1812)to combat operations in [Tarmiyah](#) and the [Battle of Baqubah](#) Iraq (2012).

Al Castillo 9th Infantry Historian



Ten Shillings English note Castillo Collection



Glynn G. Raby, Jr.



Glynn G. Raby, Jr., age 18, entered Army, March 1943. After over a year with newly activated 106th ID, was sent to ETO in May 1945 with large group selected to become replacements for casualties expected during the upcoming invasion. Camped in southern England that day, the invasion was announced and we were asked to donate blood. We did and joked that some of us might get our own blood back. Soon after, the group re-located to Normandy and from there men were selected daily to be assigned. I joined H-9th in Normandy (July ?), then Brittany, Schnee Eifel, Bulge, across Germany to Rokycany, western Czechoslovakia. July 1945 returned to USA with 2nd ID as H-9th Recon Sgt. Discharged Oct 1945.

One photo - April 1945 R&R Nice, France.

Other photo - May 2016 w/ family members in Pilsen, Cz. during the annual 4 day Celebration of their Liberation by the US Army. I was presented a medal.

Colonel Chester John Hirschfelder

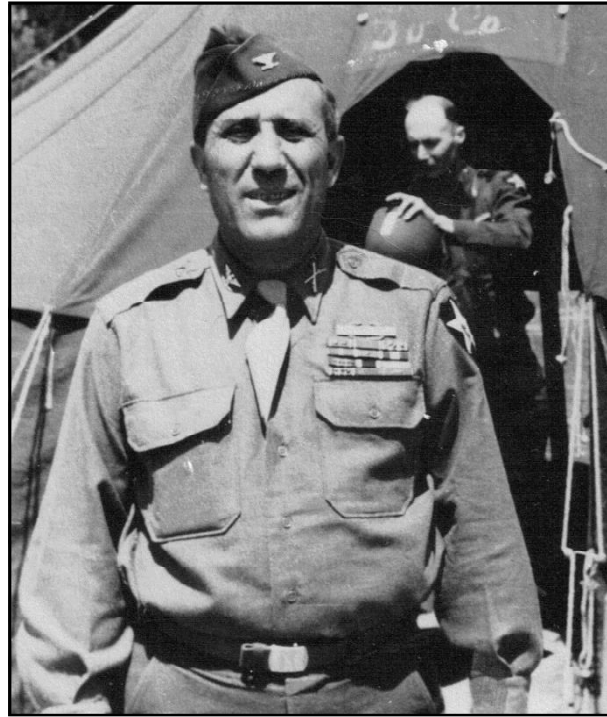


Photo Castillo Collection

Born on January 10, 1894 in Ohio. He volunteered for the Army on November 29, 1909 at Columbus Barracks, Ohio. His first assignment was with the 26th Infantry Regiment; Company I. He then joined the 2nd Infantry Division where he would work his way up in rank. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in June 1917. During World War One while serving with the 5th Machine Gun Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division as a junior officer, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He saw action in the Chateau-Thierry, Soissons, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne Campaigns.

After the war, he served in various positions with the Regiment as a Company Commander and Battalion Commander. In June 1942, he took over the command of the Regiment. He was the first soldier from the 2nd Division to land on Omaha Beach on June 7, 1944. He led the Regiment through the heavy fighting in the hedgerow country of France, and he accepted the surrender of the Garrison at Brest, France on September 18, 1944. He was awarded two oak leaf clusters to his DSC for his courage in the Normandy Campaign.

He left the Regiment on January 10, 1945. Colonel Hirschfelder was an outstanding Commander. In the words of one officer who served under him, "He was rough, tough and mean and very much respected as a leader and tactician". He was fearless, tolerated no mistakes or sloppy work. His courage, experience and tactical skills were an asset to the Regiment in combat. Colonel Hirschfelder will long be remembered as one of the great Commanders of the Regiment.



Photo National Archives

This is the most famous and widely printed picture of the 2nd Infantry Division coming up on Omaha Beach. There is also a lot of controversy about it as to who or what unit it is. Several men claim to be the soldier looking up in the photo, and various units claim that it is their unit. An Associated Press Photographer took the photo on D+1. It has been identified as the 23rd Infantry, or the 38th infantry as well as a support unit, in WW II books.

One soldier who claims to be the man in the photo and who perhaps has one of the best claims, is Sergeant Henry Doar. After coming back to the Beach area to look for the 9th Infantry on D+1, he spent most of the day there. Sgt. Doar states that in the late afternoon he saw a unit of the 2nd coming up the bluff, so he joined them coming up the hill. As he walked up, he heard someone say, "Hey Sergeant!" He looked up and an AP Photographer he had met earlier took his picture. Henry Doar thought that maybe it was part of the 38th Infantry Regiment he joined coming up. That evening he found his unit, Company I, 9th Infantry Regiment.

In 1946 after the war, the API sent Henry Doar, the original photo and a letter about the photo. The letter has since been lost, but Henry Doar, still has the original photo. When compared to wartime photos of Henry Doar the soldier does resemble him a lot. The soldier looking up has a towel hanging from his pack; Sgt. Doar had a towel that he had used earlier to clean his rifle. The rifle he picked up on the Beach as well as a gas mask, since he had lost most of his equipment.