

45th Division News

April, 1992

Published in support of the 45th Division Association and 45th Division Museum.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow Thunderbirds,

Since our last newsletter there have been some developments that I believe will meet with your approval. On 22 February 1992, United States Senators David Boren and Don Nickels (Oklahoma) announced that agreements had been reached with the leadership of the Army that would ensure the 45th Infantry Brigade would be preserved in the Force Structure of the United States Armed Forces and that the lineage and honors of the

45th Infantry Division would continue to be recognized and perpetuated through the current organization.

As a follow-on to that announcement, President George Bush announced in Oklahoma City on 6 March 1992 that he was extremely pleased with the decision to retain the 45th Infantry.

A special thanks must be extended to Senator Boren, Senator Nickels, Representative Dave McCurdy (Oklahoma) and all Congressional members who assisted us in this very important issue. Major General Tommy Alsip, Oklahoma Adjutant General is to be commended for his untiring efforts in this area. A very special thanks must be extended to each and every member of this Association that wrote letters, made telephone calls and put forth a tremendous grass roots effort that contributed immeasurably to the successful resolution of this initiative.

I would ask one more favor as it relates to this issue and that would be for the membership to once again write to President Bush and the distinguished members of the Senate and House of Representatives and thank them for their relentless efforts. Each member of our Association is encouraged to attend the 45th Infantry Division Appreciation ceremony scheduled to take place in the House Chambers of the State Capitol Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The event is scheduled to begin at 0900 AM on 14 April 1992. This will be a meaningful event that I am sure you would enjoy. The Keynote speaker for the event will be United States Senator David Boren. Governor David Walters and other key government leaders are scheduled to participate in the ceremony.

Our annual reunion is shaping up and we look forward to your attendance. Lois Batey has an even greater program for the ladies scheduled this year as do each of the event and activity coordinators. Any requests that the membership would have for this year's program should be forwarded as soon as possible to ensure adequate reaction time.

Again, the impact of your efforts on the effort to retain the 45th Infantry cannot be overstated. I assure you that in discussions with the various members of the congressional delegation, they repeatedly commented on the significant response from "Thunderbird" veterans and the impact that communication had on their commitment to assist. Your follow-up letters of appreciation will further assist in ensuring the action are formally consummated. I look forward to seeing many of you at the State Capitol in April and hopefully all at our Reunion in August.

Sincerely,

Bill Wilson

THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS

ALMOND E. FISHER

(MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT)

Second Lieutenant, Company E, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division, U.S. Army. Place and date: Near Grammont, France, 12-13 September 1944. Entered service at: Brooklyn, NY. General Order # 32, 23 April 1945.

CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on the night of 12-13 September 1944, near Grammont, France. In the darkness of early morning, Lt. Fisher was leading a platoon of Company E, 157th Infantry in single column to the attack of a strongly defended hill position. At 2:30 A.M., the forward elements were brought under enemy machinegun fire from a distance of not more than 10 yards. Working his way alone to within 20 feet of the gun emplacement, he opened fire with his carbine and killed the entire guncrew.

A few minutes after the advance was resumed, heavy machinegun fire was encountered from the left flank. Again crawling forward alone under withering fire, he blasted the gun and crew from their positions with handgrenades. After a halt to replenish ammunition, the advance was again resumed and continued for one hour before being stopped by intense machinegun and rifle fire. Through the courageous and skillful leadership of Lt. Fisher, the pocket of determined enemy resistance was rapidly obliterated.

Spotting an emplaced machine pistol a short time later, with one of his men he moved forward and destroyed the position. As the advance continued the fire fight became more intense. When a bypassed German climbed from his foxhole and attempted to tear an M-1 rifle from the hands of one of his men, Lt. Fisher whirled and killed the enemy with a burst from his carbine. About 30 minutes later the platoon came under heavy fire of machineguns from across an open field. Lt. Fisher disregarding the terrific fire, moved across the field with no cover of concealment to within range, knocked the gun from the position and killed or wounded the crew. Still under heavy fire he returned to his platoon and continued the advance. Once again heavy fire was encountered from a machinegun directly in front. Calling for handgrenades, he found only two remaining in the entire platoon. Pulling the pins and carrying a grenade in each hand, he crawled toward the gun emplacement, moving across areas devoid of cover and under intense fire to within 15 yards when he threw the grenades, demolished the gun and killed the guncrew. With ammunition low and daybreak near, he ordered his men to dig in and hold the ground already won.

Under constant fire from the front and from both flanks, he moved among them directing preparations for the defense. Shortly after the ammunition supply was replenished, the Germans launched a last determined effort against the depleted group. Attacked by superior numbers from the front, right and left flank, and even from the rear, the platoon, in bitter hand-to-hand engagements drove back the enemy at every point. Wounded in both feet by close-range machine pistol fire early in the battle, Lt. Fisher refused medical attention. Unable to walk, he crawled from man to man encouraged them and checking each position. Only after the fighting had subsided did Lt. Fisher crawl 300 yards to the aid station from which he was evacuated. His extraordinary heroism, magnificent valor, and aggressive determination in the face of point blank enemy fire is an inspiration to his organization and reflects the finest traditions of the U.S. Armed Forces.

COMBAT CHRONICLES OPERATION AVALANCHE 157TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Invasion of Italy, 9 to 30 September 1943. The 157th Infantry Regimental Combat Team (less the 2nd Battalion) was landed on 11
(cont'd on page 2)

September and ordered to attack on the left of the 179th Infantry Regiment in the direction of EBOLI. They made contact with the enemy on Highway 18 about 4km North of the SELE River. The enemy was entrenched along the highway from SW of PERSANO to BATTIPAGLIA. The 1st Battalion advanced NE and met heavy machine gun and mortar fire from the vicinity of the road junction about 1 mile West of PERSANO. A series of isolated strong points lay across the front of the 157th, consisting of the 2nd and 3rd Companies, 79th Panzer Grenadier Regiment. Enemy tanks were also engaged by the 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion in this area.

The 158th Field Artillery reinforced the fires of the 160th FA in support of a counterattack that developed on the 179th Infantry front. Artillery battalions received occasional shelling of their positions from enemy guns. During the night all battalions fired interdiction missions. Division Artillery fired a total of 1,896 rounds.

The attack of the 157th was continued with Company B moving out after patrols had reached a position opposite PERSANO unopposed. The 1st Battalion sustained an attack by 8 tanks and infantry on the right flank, and received heavy fire from the vicinity of the TOBACCO WAREHOUSE, which was broken up by our artillery.

During the night of 12-13 September, all of the artillery was firing on tanks, mortars, automatic weapons, and armored vehicles. The 158th Field Artillery fired on and stopped a counterattack that developed on the right flank of the 1st Battalion 157th Infantry.

At 1600B on the 13th, the 1st Battalion of the 157th was attacked by from 10-12 tanks followed by infantry in personnel carriers of the 16th Panzer Division. The attack was supported with artillery and developed against the right flank. The 157th's position was overrun and fire was received from tanks operating on the East bank of the SELE River. The attack continued until after dark, but by midnight the 1st Battalion had pushed one company forward to almost its original position. The 158th FA Battalion was firing on enemy tanks. When it was reported that 15 vehicles were moving across the SELE River into the salient between the SELE and CALORE Rivers, the 158th and 189th FA Battalions, with no infantry support between themselves and the vehicles, immediately put all available men and machine guns on the West bank of the CALORE River to prevent a breakthrough. The German breakthrough was stopped at the banks of the river.

On 14 September a coordinated enemy attack by tanks and infantry began to develop against the 45th Division front. The attacks continued throughout the day but were unable to penetrate the division's positions. 6,687 rounds of artillery ammunition were fired at the enemy on the 14th.

On 15 September, the 2nd Battalion 157th Infantry Regiment arrived on the beachhead from Sicily. They were immediately placed in combat with the remainder of the Regiment. From 15 September through the 18th, the front lines were static, with the enemy preparing defensive positions in the area around the TOBACCO WAREHOUSE and on the ground across the PIOCCHÉ RIDGE.

By 17 September it was obvious that the enemy was beginning to withdraw, leaving behind strong defensive elements. Division artillery destroyed 9 tanks, took 2 Mark IVs out of action, and 2 half-tracks and 2 armored cars were destroyed. Division suffered 5 KIA, 136 WIA, and 5 prisoners were taken. During the day the American 3rd Infantry Division debarked from ships and passed through the 45th's area to its assembly point.

On 19 September, the 157th moved to the high ground North of Highway 19 between EBOLI and PONTE SELE. The 1st Battalion entered EBOLI and the 2nd Battalion occupied the high ground to the NE of Highway 19, South of CAMPAGNA. The 3rd Battalion moved North between the SELE and CALORE Rivers and turned to the high ground NE of PONTE SELE.

On 20 September the Division was given a VI Corps Objective of the high ground just South of the OFANTO River. The 3rd American Division was on our left and the 36th American Division on our right. During the night the 157th moved East on Highway 19 to cross the SELE River just West of CONTURSI and to continued North along the East bank of the river. The bridges across the SELE River were out and this caused considerable delay. The regiment encountered heavy artillery fire from the North and some small arms fire. The 157th Command Post was bombed by unidentified enemy aircraft at 1351B and the 2nd Battalion was strafed on the road by an unknown number of enemy planes.

On 23 September the enemy continued to follow a planned rear guard action in the area between OLIVETO and QUAGLIETTA. The 157th continued to move along the East bank of the SELE River under continuous

observation by the enemy along the high ground in the vicinity of QUAGLIETTA. Progress was extremely slow. Upon reaching the vicinity of OLIVETO, elements of the 2nd Battalion turned onto the unimproved road in the direction of COLLIANO, which they captured during the evening and sent patrols into VALVA.

On 24 September the German defense of the area surrounding OLIVETO and QUAGLIETTA was bitter and determined. The enemy was forced to withdraw only after superior fire power and maneuvering had been brought to bear. Early in the morning, the 157th captured VALVA and continued their advance to the NE, meeting no resistance except hostile delaying action. At 0845B, Colonel Ankom, the Regimental Commander, was wounded by a mine, and Colonel John Church, the Division Chief of Staff, assumed command of the regiment. Colonel Styron, the Division Artillery Executive Officer, became acting Chief of Staff.

On 25 September the 157th reached their objective late in the afternoon and came under heavy and accurate machine gun and mortar fire. An engagement ensued with the Germans withdrawing to the North.

On 26 September, the division requested a bombing mission in support of the division's advance. The friendly planes missed the target and dropped bombs on the area of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 157th Infantry Regiment, destroying 2 mortars and slightly wounding 2 men. The 157th moved out and occupied the road junction of Highway 91 and 7 without opposition. Patrols were sent toward TEORA.

Heavy rains fell throughout the night of 28-29 September, slowing traffic on all bypasses and washing out the bypass near. There was considerable sniping by the enemy in our rear areas. The harsh Italian winter was beginning and it was to impede the progress of friendly troops throughout the winter, allowing the Germans to gain strong defensive positions in the mountains of Central Italy.

47TH ANNUAL REUNION 20-23 AUGUST

The Forty-Seventh Annual Reunion of the 45th Infantry Division Association will be held 20-23 August 1992 at the Hilton Inn West, Interstate 40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. **NOTE: The Hilton Inn West will be renamed "THE RADISSON, OKLAHOMA CITY" effective 1 June 1992.**

Committee appointments have been made by President Bill Wilson and committee members have been working hard since their appointments during the January board of directors meeting. Danny Marler is the Reunion General Chairman and all planning is on target.

Friday activities are the same format as last year, including the business meeting, a sit down dinner followed by a Country and Western dance to music provided by a Disk Jockey.

Saturday activities include a Memorial Service, Ladies Luncheon, the Annual Banquet and dancing to live music.

Hotel reservation and reunion "Registration and Transportation Request" forms are included in this newsletter. Hotel reservation forms "**MUST**" be mailed direct to the Hilton Inn West. **PLEASE** do not mail them to the association.

If you plan to attend, please complete the "Registration and Transportation Request" form and mail to: 45th Infantry Division Association, 2145 NE 46th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111. This will facilitate advance planning and permit the registration committee to prepare registration packets prior to your arrival.

The reunion committee would appreciate a maximum effort by the membership towards "**ADVANCE REGISTRATION**" AND "**PREPAYMENT**" of the amount due. This will preclude the registration committee from handling large amount of cash at the reunion site and will permit us to serve you better.

THUNDERBIRDS CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARRIVAL AT CAMP BARKELEY

A Texas welcome was given by enthusiastic and friendly citizens of Abilene, Texas when the thunderbirds arrived in that city on 8-10 November 1991 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the Division at Camp Barkeley in 1941.

Eighty-five members and their guests were present, including Harry Barnes, president of the 180th Infantry Association and Jim Phipps, president of Company G, 180th Infantry Association. Many states were represented by the attendees.

Activities included a tour of Dyess Air Force Base, A Texas Barbecue dinner complete with a CW Band, a dinner/dance at Dyess AF Base Officers Club, participation in the Veteran's Day parade and a visit to the former site of Camp Barkeley. The only remnants of the camp site are a few concrete foundations, chimneys, weeds, grass and cows.

Association board of directors member Raul Trevino served as project officer for this activity and did an outstanding job.

LADY THUNDERBIRD CORNER

Can you believe it's a little over 5 months until the "Reunion", I can hardly wait to see all my old friends and to make new ones this year. We have a lot of plans for you this year. We are going to have our Second Annual 45th Association Arts & Craft Show, which will take place on Thursday and Friday, August 20th and 21st.

This year we are going to give all our members a chance to bring their "Crafts" to sell. We will have room for approximately 30 tables. The charge will be \$10.00 per table for two days (the fee will be used to provide coffee and tea during the craft show). Anyone interested in showing will need to write or call me for an application. Tables will be allotted on a "first come first served" basis. The deadline will be 31 July or until all tables are reserved.

The Ladies Luncheon will be held at the hotel again this year. Our entertainment will be a group called "Reach for the Stars". I know you will enjoy them, so plan to attend on Saturday, 22 August. For those who would like to participate in the door prize drawing, bring a craft item on Saturday. The drawing will be held during the luncheon.

We are looking forward to seeing you in August and hope to receive a lot of applications from all over the country for our Craft Show. So plan to attend the reunion for a great time.

PLEASE, remind your husband to order your luncheon ticket when he completes the reunion registration form.

SEE YOU IN AUGUST!!!!

LOIS BATEY, 1320 INTERBURBAN WAY, EDMOND, OK 73034. 405/340-4626.

COMMISSIONING OF THE US NAVY CRUISER "ANZIO"

The AEGIS Guided Missile Cruiser ANZIO (CG-68) will be commissioned and placed into service of the U.S. Navy on 2 May 1992 at the Naval Base, Norfolk, VA.

The new ship of the line is named after the Anzio Battle on the Italian Peninsula in 1944 and the World War II convoy escort carrier, USS ANZIO (CVE-57).

The Hampton Roads Council of the Navy League will administer the commissioning and all the events attendant to it. If you desire to attend the commissioning ceremonies, the point of contact is as follows:

Navy League of the United States / USS ANZIO (CG-68) / Commissioning Committee, 4668 Pembroke Blvd, Suite 117, Virginia Beach, VA 23455 / Phone: 804/497-9611 / FAX: 804/497-4162

Official invitations will be forwarded to those desiring to attend.

The Anzio Beachhead Veterans Association of World War II will be involved in the commissioning process. Point of contact: Arnold Hirsch, President, Box 342, Donora, PA 19033, 412/379-4184.

DIVISION ASSOCIATION PROVIDES SECURITY FOR MUSEUM

A break-in at the 45th Infantry Division Museum resulting in considerable damage, theft of Nazi artifacts, attempted theft of several weapons and the presence of flammable materials (cans of gasoline wrapped with cloth) created a requirement to upgrade the existing security system to preserve the museum structure and its contents.

The museum board of directors requested that the cost of the system upgrade be supported from the 45th Division Educational Fund which is dedicated to support of the museum. This fund is supported by donations, gift shop proceeds and an endowment fund with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. The association board of directors approved the expenditure and upon completion of the project the following letter was received from Eddie A. Cope, Chairman of the museum board:

"The Board of Directors, 45th Infantry Division Museum, during its special meeting 12 February 1992, unanimously approved a motion expressing the Board's deepest appreciation for the Division Associations action resulting in a state-of-the-art Intrusion Detection System for our Museum.

Our appreciation also extends to the modification of the telephone feed lines to the museum, which renders these lines secure from intentional interruption and furthers the security of our new Intrusion Detection System.

Thanks again for the above listed items and for your continued outstanding support of our museum".

MUSEUM PLANS JAMES O. SMITH DISPLAY

Prior to Memorial Day 1992 the Ernest Childers display in the Special Exhibits Room of the 45th Infantry Division Museum will be replaced by a "James O. Smith" display which will remain in place for approximately one year.

Colonel Smith served in various assignments in the 180th Infantry during World War II prior to being assigned as Commanding Officer, Second Battalion, 179th Infantry. During the Korean War he served as Commanding Officer of the 180th Infantry Regiment. Subsequent to the Korean War he served as Assistant Division Commander of the 45th Division.

GIFTED STUDENTS VISIT MUSEUM

June M. Huneycutt, PEAK Resource Teacher for the Gifted/Talented program at James L. Dennis Elementary School in Oklahoma City brought her Fifth Grade students to the 45th Division Museum for a visit during January 1992. She later wrote the following letter to Eddie A. Cope, Chairman of the Museum Board of Directors:

Dear Mr. Cope:

Last Friday I brought the 5th grade students from our Gifted/Talented program to visit the 45th Infantry Museum. We had been studying World War II and the events which preceded it.

I can't tell you how impressed both the students and the adults were with all the exhibits. The students really got a sense of history coming alive for them. Everyone connected with the museum deserves a huge bouquet.

KOREA REVISIT PROGRAM

The Korean Veterans Association sponsors a Revisit Korea program for Korean War Veterans and War Correspondents of allied nations who served in the Korean War between 25 June 1950 and 27 July 1953.

The program consists of free lodging and meals for 5 night and 6 days. Lodging is based on 2 persons per room. Air travel to and from Korea is the responsibility of each individual. Several tours and areas of interest are included as follows: Panmunjom, North Korean Invasion Tunnel #3, War Memorial Monument, National Cemetery, National Museum, Folk Village, Korean War Museum and a shopping trip.

A reception and dinner will be hosted by the Korean Veterans Association during which the Korean War Medal and a Certificate of Ambassador for Peace will be awarded to each veteran.

The Korean Veterans Association headquarters in Seoul, Korea allocated quotas to KVA department in the United States. Each KVA department has a designated travel agent to arrange tours. Regional KVA Departments and designated travel agents are as follows:

KVA Department

Eastern Region / 303 5th Avenue, Suite 412, New York, NY 10016, 212/689-3278. **Western Region** / 945 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213/739-0182. **Mid-Western Region** / 5816 N. Lincoln Avenue #106, Chicago, IL 60659, 312/275-7188. **Hawaii Region** / 1523 KALAKAUA Avenue #206, Honolulu, HI 96826, 808/942-5758.

Travel Agents

(ER) **Cecillia Tours and Travel** / 45 W. 34th Street, Suite 1000, New York, NY 10001, 212/239-4090. (WR) **New Seoul Travel Service** / 266 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213/389-5000. (MWR) **Dearborn Travel, Inc.** / 3 First National Plaza #747, Chicago, IL 60601, 312/332-1107. (HR) **Friendship Travel Service** / 1359 Makaloa Street, Honolulu, HI 96814, 808/942-2684.

Eligible Thunderbirds who are interested in this program should contact the appropriate KVA Department or Travel Agent.

LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

I would like to contact a foxhole buddy on the Anzio Beachhead, Louis (Doc) Savage, last known address was Pawtucket, Rhode Island. We were members of Company I, 179th Infantry. I served from January 1944 to October 1944 when I was captured. **CARL W. SHELLEY**, 6403 Old Trail Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809.

I served with Company H, 180th Infantry in Japan and Korea during 1951 and 1952. I am now retired from the National Guard after serving 26 years and 10 months with the South Dakota National Guard.

My civilian job is with the Veterans Administration Hospital in Hot Springs, SD. I will complete 30 years service in October 1992 and plan to retire at that time.

I would like to hear from any of my Company H buddies. **MERLE A. FROHMAN**, 1846 Evans, Hot Springs, SD 57747.

(cont'd one page 4)

I would like to contact Jack R. Killian, North Platt, NE, Lowell Manfull, Ogden, UT and Tom Jacobsen, Norway. These were the men who trained me in my duties for the Fire Direction Center. Heavy Mortar Company, 180th Infantry Regiment during May and June 1952. **FRANK POSCICH**, 3908 Braesgate Lane, Tampa, FL 33624, 813/961-3497/

SEEKING INFORMATION

My dad's name was Alvin Lee Mayson and he served with the 45th Division during World War II. He didn't talk about the war very much or very often, but when he did, I remember a note of pride in his voice when he would say he was with the 45th Division under General Troy Middleton. He would also mention the Thunderbirds, so, I thought I would write to you in hopes of finding someone who knew my father.

He is not with us any longer so I don't have anyone to answer those questions that pop up about Salerno, Anzio and other places he served.

Any information would be greatly appreciated. **JOHN MAYSON**, 2506 McKean Drive Houston, TX 77080.

I am seeking information concerning my uncle, 1st Lieutenant Harold Bernstein, Battalion Ammunition Officer, 158th Field Artillery during World War II. He was "Killed-in-Action" 10 April 1945 in the vicinity of Wargolshausen, Germany. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew or served with him. **WADE S. GURIAN**, P.O. Box 84, High Point Mtn. Rd., West Shokan, NY 12494.

NEED TO KNOW INFO

FELIX L. SPARKS, 157th Infantry Regiment, World War II has been selected as the 1992 recipient of the Beth Joseph Men's Club Humanitarian Award in Denver, Colorado. This award is given to a person who embodies compassion, human welfare and deeds of humanity. Past recipients include Governor of Colorado Roy Romer and Patricia Schroeder a current member of the US Congress.

J. J. TRACEY, Roslyn, PA, 157th Infantry Regiment, World War II, upon renewing his membership, reported that his wife of 43 years died in August 1991 and that he was having a very difficult time adjusting to his great loss.

R. E. ALLEN, Buena Vista, PA, Company C, 179th Infantry, World War II. His wife Sara reports that her husband is currently in a Rehabilitation Center in Homestead, PA after suffering three strokes which affected his sight and paralyzed his right side. She state that "no one" is prouder to be a "Thunderbird".

MARK KOOKEN, P.O. Box 60150, Oklahoma City, OK 73146 would like to hear from anyone interested in a return visit to Hokkaido, Japan in the Spring of 1993. If enough interest is generated a travel agency will be contacted to set up an appropriate itinerary.

REUNION NOTICES

45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION: Hilton Inn West, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK 21-23 August 1992. Reunion Registration and Hotel Reservation forms are contained in this newsletter. The following listed organizations/units are conducting reunions in conjunction with the association:

COMPANY B, 179TH INFANTRY (WW II): Contact Charles H. Johnson, 3501 E. 30th Street, Tulsa, OK 74114. 918/747-6804.

COMPANY B, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA): Contact Bill Shirey, P.O. Box 1467, Estes Park, CO, 80517. 303/586-0343.

COMPANY L, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA): Contact Masell R. Garrett Jr., Route 4, Box 332 Leeds, AL 35094. 205/699-7342.

HEAVY MORTAR COMPANY, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA): 2-23 August 1992, Hilton Inn West, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Guy Geiger, 6 Segal Drive, New Milford, CT 06776, 203/354-6878.

H & S COMPANY, 120 ENGINEER BN: 20-21 August 1992. Contact Woody Harris, 26 Preston Circle, Stillwater, OK 74075, 405/372-4098.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I joined the 45th Division in 1942 at Fort Devens, MA and was assigned to the 3rd Platoon, Company I, 179th Infantry. I made three amphibious landing with the division, Sicily, Salerno and Anzio.

I am still concerned that there was no shelling or bombing of the beachhead at Salerno prior to the landing of the 36th Division, which resulted in numerous unnecessary American casualties. We followed the 36th on the beachhead and it was a terrible sight.

I remained with the division until the breakout from Anzio when I was wounded and evacuated. I received a Purple Heart and 2 Bronze Star Medals for doing my best for the 45th Division.

LEO L. KREGLEWICZ, 311 Pear Street, Scranton, PA 18505

I was with the 45th Division Signal Company for 25 months, from Camp Pickett, VA to Furstenfeldburk, Germany. I retired in 1981 after 34 years in the office supply business.

Since retirement I have published two books of historic pictures of my home town, Albany, Oregon and am making good progress on a third.

I have a collection of photos of my Signal Company buddies and would be glad to share them with anyone in the outfit that I am not currently in contact with.

ROBERT POTTS, 5321 Davidson SE, Albany, OR 97321.

I was member of the 179th Infantry Regiment during World War II and I kept a diary throughout my period of service. My wife and I visited the 45th Infantry Division Museum and enjoyed it very much and hope to be able to make a return visit someday.

GERARD E. CHRETIEN, 2627 McDaniel Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34758.

I was assigned to Company F, 179th Infantry from 29 February 1944 to 2 July 1944 when I was assigned to Regimental Rear where my job was to report battle casualties. In December 1944 I was transferred to Division headquarters.

I retired as Assistant Principal, Quincy, MA High School in 1970 and have divided my time since then between Quincy, Cape Cod and Smyrna Beach, FL.

I am not returning the application form you sent for my renewal. I am sending it to a friend, Gene Macomber, Assistant Principal at North Quincy High School who plans to retire at the end of this school year. Gene served in the 180th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War and had expressed an interest in joining the 45th Infantry Division Association.

DONALD E. MacDONALD, 31 Ocean Street, North Quincy, MA

During the siege of Aachenburg in World War II my unit, Company A, 555th Heavy Pontoon Battalion had put a bridge in above the city. One day an L-5 Artillery spotter plane was overhead, a German jet airplanes, the first I had ever seen, approached to strafe our bridge and the L-5 dived for the tree tops. Our anti-aircraft protection, Bofors and 50 cal machine guns trailed behind him. During the Korean War I was wounded and evacuate to Letterman General Hospital in the winter of 1952. While in the hospital I met a Lieutenant Colonel who said he was the pilot of the L-5 aircraft.

R. D. NICHOLS, 505 24th Street North, #117, Lewiston, ID 83501.

My wife and I made a trip to Arizona in 1990 to visit a Korean War buddy of mine that I had not seen for 39 years. We had a very enjoyable visit and spent a lot of time rehashing our service experiences.

We stopped in Oklahoma City on our way home and visited the 45th Infantry Division Museum which is a very exciting place to visit.

I was a member of Tank Company, 180th Infantry during the Korean War. Now that my wife and I have both retired we hope to be able to attend an annual reunion.

JOSEPH BARBER, 322 Edwards Court, Scranton, PA 18504

I was a member of Company H, 157th Infantry in Africa, Sicily and Italy. I was captured at Anzio during the "Battle of the Caves".

I was confined in the following POW camps: ITALY: "The Studio" (Cone Citta), Fore Sabina, Latrinia and Mantua. GERMANY: Stalag 7A Moosburg, Arbeits Kommando #663 Augsburg, Stalag 7b Memingen, Farm Detail at Unterthurheim, Back to Stalag 7B, to Dachau, then to another Farm Detail at

(LETTERS TO THE EDITOR cont'd on page 5)

(LETTERS TO THE EDITOR cont'd from page 4)

Kettershausen from where I escaped on 8 April 1945 and traveled through Alsace-Lorraine to Paris, then to Camp Lucky Strike at Le Havre to Southampton, England and home to New York City on 3 May 1945.

HENRY KAUFMAN, 1020 E 14th Place, Los Angeles, CA 90021.

I joined Company F, 179th Infantry Regiment on 4 September 1944 near the village of Soye, France. My service with Company F included Southern France and Rhineland. I became a prisoner of war when our company was counter attacked near Strasbourg, France on 28 November 1944.

I was assigned to a work camp in Lipa, Czechoslovakia until 8 May 1945. After my release from active duty I joined the Chicago, Illinois Fire Department until retirement in 1972. We moved to Sun City, Arizona after retirement. I look forward to receiving the 45th Division News.

ROBERT SULZER, 10416 White Mountain Road, Sun City, AZ 85351.

I am enclosing a renewal of my membership for 4 more years, I am now 70 and hope I get to renew a few more times. I plan to attend the Company D, 180th Infantry reunion this August in Shawnee, Oklahoma if all goes well.

Please see that I remain on the mailing list for the 45th Division News as that is the only way I can know what is happening with the old thunderbirds.

ADRIAN BROEKHUIZEN, 107 Sargent Lane, Liverpool, NY 13088.

I was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 179th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War. I am currently a member of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 192nd Field Artillery, 26th Division, Connecticut National Guard. I would like to say hello to all of my Oklahoma buddies that served in Korea with me. I am due to retire in August 1993.

OWEN MOORE, 14 Flirtation Avenue, New Preston, CT 06777.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to once again join the ranks of the "Best of the Best". Men who taught me first hand that critics don't count, that only men who are willing to sacrifice blood, sweat and guts would win.

Thanks to Peter Gaidosh, Richard 'Shorty' Gyorkos, Thomas B. Foreman, Milton Becket and Charles W. Trawich, all former member of Company A, 179th Infantry during World War II.

UTHER V. GRUGGETT SR., 3721 S. Cushman Street, Tacoma, WA 98408.

I served in Company H, 179th Infantry during the Korean War. I visited the 45th Division Museum in 1988 and really enjoyed it. Recently I visited the Carter County Museum in Ardmore, OK and particularly enjoyed the section dedicated to the "Thunderbirds".

I visited with Roy Worley and rehashed old times. I served with George Donovan (wow a real General now), and would like to hear from some of the people I served with.

DAVID T. HARRIS, P.O. Box 1243, Conroe, Texas 77305.

Thanks for all the work you and your associates put into publishing the 45th Division News, also to everyone who has a part in organizing the reunions. We enjoy both immensely. Has anyone ever suggested having the reunion in the autumn, possibly October. Seems, it would be more comfortable for those who are traveling long distances.

HELEN R. STEPHENSON, 5330 South 36th West Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74107.

I was a combat medic attached to Company L, 180th Infantry from March to June 1953 at which time I was transferred to Tank Company, 180th Infantry where I remained until March 1954. I was then detailed to the contingent bringing the 45th Division Colors back to the United States. After a 35 day sea cruise, we arrived in New York City on 17 April 1954. I participated in the parade and was then assigned to Fort Devens, MA where I was released from Active Duty on 6 August 1954.

I have been employed by the U.S. Postal Service for the last 30 years and plan to retire in 1992.

I attended my first reunion in 1985 and have returned several times and have made many new friends, but I have failed to see any persons I served with in Korea. Hope I will when I attend the reunion in 1992.

ROBERT A. BEAN, RR 1 Box 30, Mount Vernon, ME 04352.

The following information is furnished concerning my tour of duty with the 45th Infantry Division during World War II.

In May 1944 the group of replacements I was with landed in Lion Mountain, North Africa where we remained for two weeks. We were then transferred to Italy where we were assigned to different elements of the 45th Division. I was assigned to Company D, 179th Infantry as a gunner. Shortly after I was assigned we departed for the invasion of Southern France.

I remained with Company D until late winter when we were in Alsace Lorraine where I was wounded and evacuated thru medical channels. In March 1945 I returned from the hospital and was reassigned to Company D which by now was in Germany. I was promoted to Sergeant and placed in charge of a machine gun section.

One night while I was sleeping one of our guards shot me through the legs when I rolled over and made some noise and he thought I was the enemy.

I was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. I am a life member of the American Legion, DAV, VFW and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

CARL A. LAMBERT, 137 1st Street NE, Winnebago, MN 56098.

(LETTERS TO THE EDITOR cont'd on page 7)

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ATTN: RESERVATIONS



REGISTRATION APPLICATION FOR 47TH ANNUAL REUNION

COMPLETE AND MAIL TO: 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
2145 NE 36TH STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73111

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
(INCLUDE CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE)

UNIT: WW II _____ KOREA _____ POST KOREA _____

GUESTS _____
(FIRST AND LAST NAMES)

CIRCLE APPLICABLE EVENTS AND AMOUNTS AND COMPLETE APPROPRIATE BLOCKS

EVENT	CHARGE BASIS	PREPAID	PAYMENT AT DESK	AMOUNT DUE
REGISTRATION	MEMBER	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
LADIES LUNCHEON	PERSON	5.00	5.00	\$
FRIDAY	MEMBER	20.00	25.00	\$
	GUEST	25.00	25.00	\$
SATURDAY	MEMBER	25.00	30.00	\$
	GUEST	25.00	30.00	\$
TOTAL PREPAID				\$

(ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER)

TOTAL DUE AT DESK \$

PREPAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 11 AUGUST 1992 TO QUALIFY FOR PREPAYMENT RATES.

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST

I WILL BE ARRIVING IN OKLAHOMA CITY AT _____ HOURS _____ AUGUST 1992
AIRLINES, FLIGHT# _____ THERE WILL BE _____ PERSONS
IN MY PARTY REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION TO THE HOTEL.

(NAME) (PLEASE PRINT)

NAME OF GROUP 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

H HONORS #

THE DATES FOR THE MEETING ARE LISTED BELOW.
ANY VARIATION IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

ARRIVAL: AUGUST 17, 1992

DEPARTURE: AUGUST 23, 1992

LAST NAME			FIRST	MIDDLE	MONTH	DAY	MONTH	DAY
FIRM					HOUR (IF LATER THAN 6:00 P.M.)			
STREET					CREDIT CARDS			
CITY					NUMBER			
STATE					SIGNATURE			
ZIP CODE					ROLLAWAY BED IN ROOM \$10.00 PER NIGHT. CRIBS-FREE, UPON AVAILABILITY. CHILDREN IN SAME ROOM WITH PARENTS-FREE.			
SHARING WITH								
LAST NAME					FIRST			
					MIDDLE			

PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED AT RATE REQUESTED

SINGLE 1 PERSON	\$ 42.00	TRIPLE 3 PERSONS	\$ 42.00
DOUBLE 2 PERSONS	\$ 42.00	QUAD 4 PERSONS	\$ 42.00

PARLORS & SUITES ARE RESERVED UPON REQUEST.
SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. PLEASE CALL DIRECT.

REMARKS: CALL DIRECT: 405/947-7681

LAST DATE FOR RESERVATIONS IS _____ AFTER WHICH RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABILITY AND AT REGULAR HOTEL RATES.

I entered the Army 18 January 1951 and received basic training at Fort Bragg, NC followed by AIT at Fort Benning, GA. Went to Korea in November 1951 and was assigned to 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Shortly thereafter the 1st Cavalry Division was replaced in Korea by the 45th Infantry Division and I was transferred to Company G, 179th Infantry Regiment.

Wounded 15 June 1952 in the vicinity of Kumwa, Korea. Awarded Korean Service Medal, UN Service Medal, Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman Badge. I was retired for medical reasons 31 May 1955.

I heard about the 45th Division Association from a fellow member of VFW Post 5097. Some of the Company G members I remember are; Arthur Barder, Seattle, WA, Harold Shoemaker, Mitchell, SD who was wounded the same night that I was, Darell Barlow, Medford, OR, Jim Lively, Lincoln, NE and Lucky (?) from Fort Worth, TX.

I am enclosing a "Life" membership application and am very proud to be a part of this great organization.

JOSEPH A. LANDRY "FRENCHY", 612 Magnolia St., Thibodaux, LA 70301.

THUNDERBIRD DEATHS

LLOYD J. BICKERSTAFF, Elk City, Oklahoma, deceased 19 December 1991. Lloyd was affectionally known by his friends as "Big Bick". He was a member of the 179th Infantry Regiment during World War II. After his release from active duty in 1945 Lloyd worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for two years. In 1947 he joined the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety where he served as a driver license examiner and Highway Patrol Trooper until 1961 when his health deteriorated and forced his retirement from the Highway Patrol. He later served 16 years with the Elk City Police Department. Lloyd was injured during the Salerno campaign and was awarded the purple heart and bronze star. Survivors include his wife Morene, 1 daughter, 1 son, 2 grandchildren, his mother and one brother Robert of Oklahoma who is also a World War II Thunderbird veteran.

HOWARD W. CLUNDT, Brooklyn, New York, deceased at age 68. He was a member of the 157th Infantry Regiment during World War II. His death was due to a severe heart attack. Howard's wife Irene stated that he was always tremendously proud of his association with the Thunderbirds and that he displayed the thunderbird insignia whenever and where he could. He is survived by his wife Irene and two sons.

JAMES H. FOSTER SR., Denison, Texas, deceased 27 December 1991. James was a member of Company D, 157th Infantry Regiment during World War II. Combat awards and decorations include the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was employed by the Fuller Brush Company for 29 years prior to his retirement in 1975. James was a member of the Denison Lions Club, VFW, American Legion, AARP,

Military Order of the Purple Heart and the First Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas. Survivors include his wife Marguerite, three sons, one daughter, eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

ROBERT C. FULTON, Glenwillard, Pennsylvania, deceased 5 November 1991. Robert joined the U.S. Army when he was 18 years old and was assigned to the 157th Infantry Regiment. He served in the European Theater of Operations and received the following combat awards and decorations: five campaign stars, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Invasion Arrowhead, Distinguished Unit Citation, American Theater Medal, Victory Medal and the Purple Heart. Robert enjoyed golf and music, and played in a band for several years. He retired from Conrail in 1984. Survivors include his wife Vesta, five sons, one daughter and eleven grandchildren. His wife stated that Robert was very proud to have been a Thunderbird.

ROBERT M. HODGES, Springfield, Massachusetts. He joined the Oklahoma National Guard in 1940 at Beggs, Oklahoma and was inducted with the division in September 1940. He served four years and eleven months as a member of the Medical Detachment, 179th Infantry. Robert was discharged from the Army in June 1945 and was married 15 July 1945. He wife Lucy stated that he was proud to be a Thunderbird and that they both enjoyed reading the 45th Division news. She regretted that they never made it to a reunion. Combat awards and decorations include the Purple Heart and Bronze Star and the EAME Ribbon with five battle stars. Survivors include his wife Lucy, one son, one daughter and three grandchildren.

WILLIAM A. HUTTON, Norman, Oklahoma deceased 5 December 1991. Bill was a current member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, serving as S-3, Troop Command, Headquarters State Area Command. He was a graduate of Engineer Officer Basic Course, Infantry Officer Advance Course, Engineer Officer Advance Course and US Army Command and General Staff Course. He was a LIFE member of the association. He was the recipient of numerous Federal and State awards and decoration during his service career. Bill is survived by his wife Carol, one brother, one sister and his mother.

JOSEPH G. KIWALA, Lansing, Michigan, deceased 23 January 1992. Joe was a member of Headquarters Battery, 45th Division Artillery during World War II and a member of Company A, 439th Engineer construction Battalion during the Korean War.

He participated in the Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns and received the EAME ribbon with four campaign stars.

(THUNDERBIRD DEATHS cont'd on the back page)



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to be a member of the 45th Infantry Division Association. I enclose my dues for:

- _____ \$75.00 for a Life Membership
_____ \$35.00 for a 10-Year Membership
_____ \$15.00 for a 4-Year Membership
_____ \$ 5.00 for a 1-Year Membership

SEND TO:
45th Infantry Division Association
2145 NE 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Your Name (Please Print) _____

Address (Street or P.O. Box) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Former or Present Thunderbird Unit _____

World War II _____ Korean War _____ Post Korean War _____

(SPECIAL NOTE: You are invited to submit a paragraph of current information or a news item about yourself or another former or present Thunderbird, for possible use in 45th Division News. Please submit it on a separate sheet of paper, identifying each person mentioned by present location and former Thunderbird unit.)

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Joe was a LIFE member of the 45th Division Association and attended many reunions. Burial was in Alanson Cemetery with full Military Honors. He is survived by his wife Hazel.

ROBERT A. SCHAFER, Solon, Ohio, deceased December 1991. He was a member of the 179th Infantry Regiment during World War II. He joined Company K, 179th Infantry in 1941 as a replacement from Camp Walters, Texas.

Bob is survived by one son, Lt Commander Duane R. Schafer, US Navy, Dunae's wife Jane and two granddaughters.

Robert's death was reported by Marcy M. Moore, Beggs, Oklahoma who stated that he had lost a very dear friend and WW II "Buddy".

MORRIS L. OLSON, Appleton, Wisconsin, deceased October 1991. He was a member of the 180th Infantry Regiment in World War II and was a LIFE member of the 45th Infantry Division Association.

Morris's wife reported that he enjoyed the reunions very much and only reason they missed last year was because he was too weak to travel.

Morris and his wife visited the museum on one occasion while returning from a trip to Texas. It was on a Monday and the museum was closed, however, they were permitted to enter and she stated that he was very proud to have his World War II story display in the museum.

Morris's wife said he was buried on a warm beautiful day in October with full military honors. Survivors include his wife, one son, one daughter and four grandchildren who gave Grandpa many happy times.

LEWIS C. TAYLOR, Oklahoma City, OK, deceased 3 February 1992. Lewis was a member of the 120th Medical Battalion throughout World War II.

He graduated from the University of Oklahoma Medical School in 1938. Doctor Taylor practiced medicine in Oklahoma City from 1946 until the time of his death. He was a member of numerous medical societies and associations and was past president of the Oklahoma Society of Anesthesiologists.

Survivors include his wife Juynne, two sisters and sixteen nieces and nephews.

OSCAR J.H. THOMAS, Muskogee, Oklahoma, deceased 30 January 1992, Oscar joined the 180th Infantry Regiment of the Oklahoma National Guard in 1938. He was inducted as a Technical Sergeant when the division was mobilized in September 1940. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant by direct appointment in February 1941. He served with the 180th Infantry Regiment throughout World War II until captured by the German Army and becoming a POW in September 1944.

He rejoined the 45th Division after World War II and was recalled to active duty for the Korean War. Oscar served as Executive Officer, 3rd Battalion, 279th Infantry until released from active duty in May 1952. Upon reorganization of the 45th Infantry Division he later commanded the 3rd Battalion, 279th Infantry. Oscar transferred to the Army Reserve in 1961.

Combat awards and decorations include The Combat Infantryman Badges with second award, Bronze Star W/OLC, Purple Heart, American Defense and Service Medals, WW II Victory Medal, Army Occupation Medal (Europe and Japan), National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Interment was in Greenhill Cemetery, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Oscar is survived by his wife Dorothy.

LIFE MEMBERS

SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

James Dunlap	Alexander L. Kostka	Richard D. Nichols
Johnie D. Grimes	Leo F. Kruckeberg	Joseph H. Savin
Roy L. Hohlt	Alfred A. Meier	Miles C. Smith
John Urlich Jr.		

NEW MEMBERS

SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

10-YEARS

William J. Hoey Jr.	Henry Kaufman	Milford E. Williams
Albert G. Holzheimer		

4-YEARS

Harold Bainter	David L. Fisk	James V. Perduto
Kenneth R. Balise	Stephen M. Frisch	Francis Poscich
Robert A. Bean	Uther V. Gruggett	James R. Ritchie
Albert J. Bekampis	Jerry Hamel	Eutimio Sandoval
Frank Best	Billy C. Harlan	James I. Shiflett
Carlisle J. Coates	Dr. R.O. Hunter	Elmer G. Schultz
Anthony Thomas Cricco Sr.	Kenneth E. Jones	Walter Snyzyk
Joseph Paul Daugherty	Andrew J. Kelly	Charles D. Stevens
Charles R. Del Monte	John A. Mayson	Robert I. Sulzer
Bill English	Gerald T. Ott	Bobbie J. Wade

TAPS

Lloyd Bickerstaff	Robert M. Hodges	Morris L. Olson
Marvin L. Briggs	Walter A. Hofner	Wayne Pierce
Lorenzo S. Brown	William A. Hutton	Joseph C. Sandlin
Howard W. Clundt	Joseph G. Kwala	Shelby A. Satterfield
Roy E. Dehart	Michael E. Kowalewski	Robert A. Schafer
Arthur F. Donovan	Leroy Lambeth	Cornelius P. Shea
Frank S. Farmer	Malcom Miller	Lewis C. Taylor
James H. Foster Sr.	John R. McCall	Robert Teehee
Robert C. Fulton	Frank McKin	Oscar J. H. Thomas
Walter T. Gavan	Benjamin S. Nispel	David L. Wyrick

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