

45th Division News

January 1988

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

Post Script

By Bill Tharp

The following article by Thunderbird Veteran Bill Tharp was published in the Midwest City, Oklahoma Sun shortly after the 45th Infantry Division Association Annual Reunion in August 1987. Bill served in the 160th FA prior to World War II, 171st FA during World War II and the 279th Infantry during the Korean War.

Guard Has Really Changed

THOSE OLD GUARDSMEN who met in my home town, Chandler, so long ago, would have been goggle-eyed if they could have seen and heard what was going on last weekend at the Hilton Inn West.

The National Guard has, indeed, come a far piece from Territorial Days in Oklahoma.

Millions of dollars are appropriated each year to equip and train the Guard, but the first appropriation made by the Oklahoma Legislature amounted to a measly \$3,000.

Roy Hoffman, early-day banker, lawyer and commander of the old guard, described its first encampment, which was held in Guthrie.

"... It rained most the time. We had only a few uniforms and when our column set out on march, we had Spanish War, Civil War, mufti, ragtag and bobtail --- a tatter-demalion crew. On the back of each recruit was strapped our own idea of a mess kit with a big quart tin cup flapping along and beating time to the march. And yet out of that humble beginning, ludicrous as it may seem now, was born the spirit which carried the colors of our country into the jaws of death at St. Mihiel and left our herioc dead upon the battlefield."

Today, the Oklahoma National Guard is fully equipped with the latest in weaponry and dressed to the hilt.

Officer candidate schools are thriving across the nation and recruitment is up.

High mobility, multi-purpose vehicles abound.

Mobile rocket launchers with a range of 30 kilometers will be getting a workout when the Guard goes to Europe to train where the old 45th made such a name for itself in 511 days of combat in World War II.

The Thunderbird Division traced its ancestry back beyond the Spanish American War. Oklahoma's citizen soldiers have fought in every war and armed conflict during the 20th century.

The War Department authorized the formation of the 45th Infantry Division with headquarters in Oklahoma City in 1923, and reorganization by the Department of the Army disbanded the division in 1968.

Members of the 45th Division Association assembled in Oklahoma City this past weekend voted to reactivate the 45th at the earliest possible date.

The spirit shown at this year's reunion practically assures this happening.

I know our little group was united in its enthusiasm for the old division to be restored to its former status.

We are among the very few who hold a unit

reunion.

We meet in our own CP, and there were 23 of us who returned this year with our wives.

We are close, or closer, than many well-knit families.

Our wives, especially, enjoy these get-togethers and the powers that be in the Association see to it that they are well entertained.

These wives come with their husbands from Massachusetts and California and the states in between.

They loved their visit to the 45th Division Museum which is located in a two-story rock building constructed by the WPA during the 1930's at 36th and Martin Luther King. Between WW II and the Korean War, when the Oklahoma Highway Patrol occupied the NE 23rd Street Armory, this building housed the entire 45th Infantry Division Headquarters on its first floor and served as living quarters for the adjutant general of Oklahoma upstairs.

Today it is one of the finest military museums in the world.

It is open daily, including Sunday afternoons, free of charge to the public, but is closed on Mondays.

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Ceremony at Museum

A Veterans Day Ceremony was conducted at the 45th Infantry Division Museum, 2145 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK at 10:00 AM, 11 November 1987.

Band music prior to the ceremony, and the National Anthem, was provided by the US Grant High School Band, Oklahoma City.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Franklin Rector, who served as Chaplain of the 189th FA Bn and 45th Division Artillery during World War II.

Colonel Donald G. Smith, Commander of the 45th Infantry Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, gave the welcoming address and introduced distinguished guests.

Speaker for the occasion was Dale Robertson, a native Oklahoman and graduate of Classen High School, Oklahoma City and Oklahoma Military Academy, Claremore, Oklahoma. Robertson has appeared in 63 major movies and is currently the star of the television series "J. J. Starbuck". He is a combat veteran of World War II. Dale served in Africa, Italy and France as a member of the 322nd Engineer Combat Battalion. Combat awards include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Silver Star and the Cross of Lorraine from France.

An 1881 Hotchkiss 1.65 Mountain Gun was fired by the Second United States Cavalry, Historical Reenactment Group under the direction of Lieutenant Mark Blodgett Jr.

Presentation of Colors was accomplished by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1857 and Edmond High School Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Laying of the "Thunderbirds" wreath was accomplished by Bruce Rey, Herbert O'Neil and Odell Shaw all combat veterans of the 45th Infantry Division.

A Fly Over was performed by the 507th Air Force Reserve, Tinker Air Force Base.

The benediction was given by Chaplain Charles Richmond, a Korean War Thunderbird veteran.

All visitors were invited to tour the museums at the conclusion of the ceremony. Refreshments were provided.

Co-chairmen for organizing the veterans day ceremony were Jim Bruno and Dorothy Moore.

ASSOCIATION NEEDS ADDRESS OF UNIT/ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATIONS

The 45th Infantry Division Association does not have a current list of subordinate (not meant to be demeaning) company, battery, squadron, battalion, regimental Associations, Chapters, etc.

We frequently receive requests for points of contact and addresses for these organizations/associations, and we cannot respond properly.

We request that each such organizations/association furnish the Division Association the name and address of your association so we can better serve our members.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Letters to the Editor

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I was very saddened to see the Thunderbird Deaths section of the October edition of the Division News and the listing of Edgar G. Hanks, Co L, 179th Infantry, Korean War.

Sergeants Hanks and Bob Gwaltney were the first two men to greet me and welcome me aboard the 45th in November 1951. I was a "left over" from the 7th Cav, 1st Cav Division.

Sgt. Hanks was a Platoon Sgt in Co L, and epitomized what I felt an American Non Commissioned Officer should be. Ramrod straight; speaking with authority; yet giving the immediate and true impression of honesty and fairness. All of these first impressions held true. I tried to imitate these characteristics later when it was my turn to lead. I along with many others will miss him deeply.

I pray for Gods' comfort to his loved ones left behind. **ROBERT M. BROWNE**, Rt. 6, Box 224B, Mankato, MN 56001.

★

The October issue of the 45th Division News has just been forwarded to me down here in Florida, where I spend the winters these days far from my home in Stratton Village, Maine where the snow has a tendency to get higher than my head, and colder than anywhere else, I guess, although I don't want to rile anybody who likes to feel that his hometown is colder.

I was a member of Hq Co 3rd Bn and Co L 179th Infantry during World War II. I was in the wire section in Hq. Co. I was reading this very welcome bit of news of the old outfit when I came across the names of several "Officers and Gentlemen" (so it was proclaimed by an innocent Congress) whom I knew. Now, I'd like to know how I can get even — I mean — in touch with them. Weishuhn and Putnam used to tell me that there just weren't any vacancies for Generals in a Bn Hq Co, so I'd just have to go ahead and put up with things the way they were. I must, in all modesty say, that I put up with the sublime status of "Acting PFC", I really have no cause to complain. When I joined the outfit on May 20, 1942 at Ft. Devens, MA, I was only a private.

I would like to report the death of Major David Lemerise, Platoon Leader, Communications Section, Hq Co, 3rd Bn, 179th Infantry. His widow, Dot, sent me the rarest treasure I own. . . Dave's copy of the history of the 45th. I carry it along with me when I come to Florida and back to Maine in the spring of the year. I'm not bashful about letting people have a look at the record of the best outfit in the history of American arms. . . did I quote somebody, seems to me that phrase has a familiar ring to it?

By the time I managed to get back to "Allied Control" after spending 6 or 7 months floundering around through Poland, Russia, Turkey, etc., the war was over and I rode the SS Mariposa back to Boston with a whole gaggle of Red Cross ladies and Nurses. Again, however, there was a small matter of rank, so I didn't get to fraternize overly much. Besides, I was down to 102 pounds and didn't make too imposing an impression. The food served up in Stammlager IIIC wasn't exactly what a fellow might call bountiful. To this day, I have a distinct aversion to Rutabagas in any form.

Shall try to make a reunion before I become too decrepit to get around. I shall always be proud to have servd with such wonderful people who made up the rosters in Co L and Hq Co 3rd Bn. There has never been a finer group of men than these people. I know where some of the fellows are, and if anyone would like to know about them, I'd be happy to oblige. **FRANCIS RICHARD YORK (SMITTY)**, 912 NE 81st Street, Miami, FL 33138

★

Every effort was made to attend the reunion this year, but due to ill health I was unable to make it.

Thanks to the literature you supplied I found out about the association and would like to apply for membership. Enclosed is a check for a four year membership.

I served as Chemical Officer in Division Headquarters in Korea from September 1952 to May 1953. I arrived in Korea after most of the National Guard troops had been phased out, but was there in the Far East to attend a reunion in Tokyo and met a few of the original troops.

I am getting along in years (almost 83) but still remember that the service with the 45th was one of the finest recollections of my military career. **CHESTER W. MYERS**, 914-C Avenida Majorca, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

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45th Division News

Published four times yearly by the 45th Infantry Division Association to support the work of the association and the 45th Infantry Division Museum.

William G. Evans	President
Wm. Rex Wilson	Secretary/Editor
Herman Wilson	Publisher
Eva Lou Moon	Volunteer Staff
Noma Jo Strickland	Volunteer Staff

Address news contributions and other correspondence to Editor, 45th Division News, 45th Infantry Division Association, 2145 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111.

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I went to Israel with the IAAV in June 1987. On the trip I met a former member of the 45th Division from the World War II era.

He told me about the Division Association and the museum and gave me your address.

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$75.00 for a Life Membership. **PAUL G. MONTGOMERY**, 435 Patrick Avenue, Merritt Island, FL 32953

★

The end of the 45th Division Reunion in August left this old guy rather depressed. It was the end of a dream come true and, it was every bit as good as I knew in my heart it would be when I left Coatesville.

The trip on the train was really enjoyable. I enjoyed meeting and talking to all the people I came in contact with. My experience at Newton, Kansas, when I received an unexpected ride to Wichita when I was stranded, will always be one of my best memories.

At the reunion I was overwhelmed by the number of guys and gals who stopped to talk, wanting to know where I was from, what outfits I was with, and where did you serve, and when did you serve. It was a memorable experience.

I will always regret that I did not get to meet Bob Wilson. He was the one who answered all the first questions I raised about the convention, and I really was looking forward to talking to him. I am glad that I did get to meet his wife.

I am still hopeful of coming to the reunion again next year. Only time will give the answer. I have to admit there are times when I feel my age. Yet, I'm planning for at least one more 45th Reunion and one Anzio Reunion, and hopefully I'll make them in 1988. **DAVID STARR JORDAN**, 616 Olive Street, Coatesville, PA 19320.

★

I have the pleasure to write to your association to ask for some information linked with the research I decided to begin, in order to find 3 veterans who fought in my part of France during the second World War.

These three Americans from California have been living at my grandmother's, Mrs. Thirion in Vimenil (a small village between Epinal and Bruyeres in the Vosages, in the East of France) before the liberation of Bruyeres City (Vosages) in October 1944:

Fred Holt (San Francisco)
Stephan Rickswalsky
Thomas Nixon

My family after the war, having lost all the addresses of these friendly Americans, who have still written to us after the war. I'm trying to find them again in the name of the friendship between our two countries.

I have written to the American Embassy in Paris, explaining where these soldiers were exactly operating during the war, so they gave me you address thing they might belong to the 45th Infantry Division. In fact they were operating and bringing supplies by lorries in the area of Brouvelieures-De Champ St. Die, in the direction of Germany.

I would be so grateful if you could help me to find these veterans, or even tell me if they didn't belong to the 45th Infantry Division.

Our part of France being very fond of your country by the links of freedom which have united French people to American people through history, I hope you will be able to help me.

With all my sincere thanks, accept all my regards. **M'ELLE ISABELLE RUPP**, Residence "Le Panoramique" 30 bis Route de Remiremont, 88000 Epinal, France. **EDITOR'S NOTE: Please Respond directly to M'Elle Rupp.**

★★★ Letters to the Editor ★★★

I heard of your organization from some literature I received today from Felix L. Sparks, Secretary, 157th Infantry Association.

I was a member of the 179th Infantry serving from 1 November 1943 to 17 February 1944 at which time I became a German Prisoner of War at Anzio.

Would be most interested in hearing from anyone who remembers me, or has knowledge of the events that occurred on 17 February 1944 in the 179th Infantry sector.

I am enclosing a copy of my German POW record. **SALVATORE P. PASSARIELLO**, 1619 Hartford Turnpike, North Haven, CT 96473

★

The October issue of the 45th Division News has prompted me to utilize your services in attempting to locate two former members of the 157th Infantry. Jack Barker, 3493532, possibly from Alabama, and James H. Whittle, 3483878, Company F, possibly from Georgia.

They were members of an impromptu quartet formed in December 1944 at Camp Miles Standish near Boston, Massachusetts. We were in the same contingent on the USS Santa Rosa crossing the Atlantic Ocean, and then all the way by train to a replacement depot at Phalsbourg, France where we sang together for the last time.

I was assigned to Company B, Howard Thomas from Kansas to Company C, Whittle to Company F, Barker's unit unknown.

I am presently in contact with Howard Thomas. Would appreciate information on the status or whereabouts of Barker and Whittle. **O C "Tex" SUMNER**, 1101 Callahan Street, Amarillo, TX 79106.

★

Recently we met a former member of the 157th Infantry, Robert Anderson, 65 Hoover St., North Arlington, NJ 07032.

He was driving behind our car and spotted our "These Colors Don't Run" Thunderbird bumper sticker. He stopped us and introduced himself and said he was a 45th Division member during combat in World War II.

We exchanged information and told him about the annual reunion, and that we had attended this year. He was very interested and said he and his wife would like to become members of the association and attend the 1988 reunion.

We told him we would get in touch with you and request that you send him an application for membership and the last edition of the 45th Division News. We would appreciate you letting him know that we did get in touch. **JOHN AND MADELINE JOSSO**, 270 Chestnut St., Kearny, NJ 08032.

★

When I saw a 45th Division bumper sticker on a car I had to stop the driver and ask where I could get one. Former Thunderbirds are rare in the Northeast and I was happy to see another.

I was assigned to the 45th Recon Company in August 1953 in Korea. I remained with the unit until the Division was deactivated and returned to Oklahoma, at which time I was transferred to the 24th Div Recon Co.

I will retire this year after 29 years as a Buffalo, NY policeman. I plan to visit the museum after retirement. **JOHN S. FRANDINA**, 194 Wilmington Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150.

★

I was inducted into military service in January 1951 at Fort Dearborn, MI and was sent to Fort Sheridan Illinois for processing. I joined the 45th Division at Camp Polk, LA and survived the January ice storm.

Upon completion of basic and advanced training I went on furlough and rejoined the 45th Division Hokkaido, Japan and was assigned to Company C, 180th Infantry at Chitose.

Went to Korea with 180th Infantry in December 1951 and spent Christmas day on a sweep of "No Mans Land" north of Chorwon, and had "C" rations for Christmas dinner.

Returned to US from Korea in August 1952, released from Active Duty and assigned to the inactive reserve at Fort Custer, MI.

I was employed for 25 years as Yardmaster with CSX Transportation Company Old Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. **HAROLD C. LOYSELLE, JR.**, 2370 East Hile Road, Muskegon, MI 49444.

★

Enclosed is a check for \$15.00 for a four year membership. I look forward to receiving the 45th Division News. I was a member of Battery C, 171 FA Bn and was with them at Camp Polk after the 45th was mobilized for the Korean War. I served with them in Korea in 1951-1952. At that time I didn't realize what a fine organization I was a part of.

We had a reunion in St. Louis a few years ago, and it was a that time I really appreciated the people I served with. I am a native North Dakotan and am proud that I served with a group of might fine Oakies. **RICHARD LAQUA**, 1704 SE 3rd Street, Minot, ND 58701.

I need to hear from anyone who served with Company F, 180 Infantry in Hokkaido, Japan who can substantiate the fact that a large crate fell on me while I was on a detail with the Navy, loading equipment on a ship bound for Korea. **HAROLD L. DEW**, Box 191, Hallsboro, NC 28442

★

My association with the 45th Division began at the Anzio Beachhead in late February 1944 and lasted until I was hospitalized in early June 1945 from Munich, Germany.

I was glad to be ZI'd in early August with high blood pressure and a kidney infection, but I was sorry I left my buddies and couldn't come home with them.

I was a 60 mm Mortar man with Company A, 157th Infantry and had some wonderful friends who I would like to contact. I am trying to locate the following people: Ed Weilochowski, Detroit, MI; John Droll and Cliff Gumm, former Sergeants, home states unknown; Jack Hearn, Albany, NY; Bob Simpson, Chicago, IL; Glen Sykes, Tacoma, WA.

I have written to and received letters from Lt. Brookhart and Lt. Atwell and Cliff Lewellyn of Mississippi.

I will appreciate any information concerning these individuals. **JOSEPH J. TRACEY**, 2931 Madison Avenue, Roslyn, PA 19001.

★

Mr. Ralph Fink has kindly given me your address as a proper place to write to attempt to locate a one-time close friend of mine. He served with the Thunderbird Division. He was an enlisted man who came from Atlantic City, NJ and whose name at that time was **GEORGE MACDIRAMID**.

George has since legally changed his name to **GEORGE BRECHT**. The last time I knew he was a self-employed artist living in West Germany in Stuttgart. However, when I went to West Germany last year, authorities in Stuttgart had no record of such a person. I did not know of your Association at that time.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows or has knowledge of the whereabouts of this individual. **REV. CHARLES L. WOOD**, P.O. box 460, Indian River, MI 49749.

★

Enclosed find a check for fifteen dollars for a four year renewal of my membership in the association. My membership is good until December 1987, but I wanted to assure that I didn't miss the news in the paper you put out. I could forget to send in my renewal in January as my memory bank doesn't have all its lights lit some time.

I joined Company D, 180th Infantry at Camp Pickett, VA in 1943 and went the distance with them until about three months before the end of the war when I was wounded in action and returned to the US.

Keep up the good work on the Division News. **ADRIAN BROEKHUIZEN**, 107 Sargeant Lane, Liverpool, NY 13008.

★

Enclosed is my application for membership in the 45th Infantry Division Association. I joined the 120th Medical Bn, 45th Division at Norman, OK in September 1949. I was commissioned in July 1950, inducted with the Division in September 1950 and went to Japan and Korea with the Medical Battalion, and returned to the US in 1952.

I am particularly interested in contacting Barney Hillerman, Charles Southerland and Wallace Nyrop. Would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows their current whereabouts. **WILLIAM B. MOODY**, 7726 19th Avenue Northeast, Seattle, WA 98115.

★

I served with the 45th Infantry Division during the Korean War. I was in Company K, 179th Infantry at the time our Division was called to active duty in 1950. I left Enid, OK immediately for Fort Hood, TX where I spent the next 3 months in Food Service School. Then I joined my outfit at Camp Polk, LA. I was discharged from active duty at Fort Will, OK June 28, 1952.

I well remember all the cold, desolation, bloodshed and violence of war in Korea. I came home to Enid, OK and left immediately for California and started my career with the Postal Service and retired from the Post Office here in Pampa, TX in May 1986.

I enjoy the newsletter from our association and have just completed reading the October 1987 issue. I would like to correspond with any of the old gang from "King" Company. I read where Billy R Madden and David Johnson just joined the association. Welcome, gang! I also read the letter to the editor from Albert Spanel of Houston, TX who was also in my outfit. He mentioned seeing J.B. Tewes, Mike Rodriguez, John Newman, Dave Crawford and Charlie McHalak at the reunion. My, how those names bring back fond memories. I am searching for my old close friend, Manuel Mejia, formerly of Laredo, TX. I will answer all letters from any of the old gang. **PERRY L. CHOATE**, 1112 Sierra Drive, Pampa, TX 79065.

★ ★ ★ Reunions ★ ★ ★

Reunions

COMPANY D, 179th INFANTRY, 5-6 August 1988, Norman, OK. Contact Ray Wall, 8508 South Ross, Oklahoma City, OK 73159 or Gary Robbins, 1740 Saddlespur Drive, Florissant, MO 63033.

COMPANY G, 180th INFANTRY, 6-8 May 1988, McAlester, OK. Write or call J.M. Phipps, P. O. Box 347, Clarcona, FL 32710 (305/295-6759).

ANZIO BEACHHEAD VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II, 21-24 April 1988, Pensacola, FL. Contact National Headquarters, 403 Willow Avenue, Sanford, FL 32771.

157th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION, 5-11 September 1988, Denver, CO. Contact Felix L. Sparks, Secretary, 7900 West 23rd Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80215.

ANTI-TANK COMPANY, 179th INFANTRY, June 1988, Ardmore, OK. Contact Robert M. Adams, 62 Broadlawn, Ardmore, OK 73401.

189th FIELD ARTILLERY, 22-23 April 1988, Tulsa, OK. Contact Art Corley, Route 1, Box 336, Big Cabin, OK 74332 (918/782-9500).

645th TANK DESTROYER, 22-23 April 1988, Tulsa, OK. Contact T.J. Hunker, P.O. Box 127, Wheatland, OK 73097 (405/745-2433).

COMPANY A, 120th ENGINEER, 1988, Contact A D Palma, 1430 Thieriot Avenue, New York City, NY 10460.

45th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, 26-27 August 1988 *** 25-26 August 1989, Hilton Inn West, Oklahoma City, OK.

157th Association Meets

The 157th Infantry Association recently held their five day annual reunion near Chicago. Approximately 450 people were in attendance. Highlights were a memorial service, banquet, a Cubs baseball game and tours of Chicago, plus lots of reminiscence.

Officers elected for the coming year were:

President — Ralph W. Fink, Hershey, PA

Vice President — Frank Stevenson, West Lawn, PA

Secretary — General Felix Sparks, Lakewood, CO

The next reunion is being planned for Denver, CO., in early September 1988.

The Association is actively seeking new members.

Anyone having served with the 157th Infantry Regiment OR 158th Field Artillery Battalion at anytime during World War II is asked to contact General Felix Sparks, 7900 West 23rd Ave., Lakewood, CO 80215 (303/233-2369).

Company D 179th Infantry Holds Annual Reunion

Company D, 179th Infantry held its' annual reunion August 7-8, 1987 at the Holiday Inn, Norman, Oklahoma. Seventy members and wives attended the two day affair.

J. Milton Smith, world wide coordinator for 1987, acknowledged letters received by Larry Wistener, Akron, NY and Fred Cornwall, Tulsa, Oklahoma from Governor George Nigh for their efforts in fund raising for the Oklahoma Veterans Memorial.

Highlight of the banquet entertainment was a "THIS IS YOUR LIFE" roast of Walter S. Murphy, Austin, Texas. An open house was held for all Thunderbirds in the Norman area on Friday 7 August.

The World Wide Coordinator for 1988 is Gary Robbins, Florissant, MO. Gary served with Company D during the Korean War.



Each year a group of Thunderbirds that entered the service together from Dodge County, Wisconsin, get together for a reunion dinner. The above attended the 5th year reunion on September 19. Most served in the 279th infantry in Korea.

Front row (l to r): LeRoy Grosnick, Bill Leistico, Lester Schmidt, Bill Peirick. *Back row (l to r):* Clarence Stange, Harold Key, Dick Patzlsberger, Roy Rosenthal, Frank Hechimovich, George Schwartz, John Weber, Merlin Schuett, George Hechimovich, Dennis Gundrum.

Thunderbirds Attend Nebraska Korean Veterans Reunion

Jack L. Ewer, Loup City, NE; Eldon H. Marty, Oxford, NE; Robert Hieder, Hebron, NE and Joe L. Mettenbrink, Kearney, NE attended the first ever "Korean Veterans of Nebraska Reunion" in Kearney, NE during August 1987.

According to project organizer Dick Gleason of Kearney, the weekend was very successful. Gleason said a second reunion is planned for August 1988.

Gleason said the recent movement to give Vietnam veterans more recognition serves to remind Korean War veterans how little has been done to honor them.

An estimated 400 veterans attended the reunion and organizers are hopeful that South Koreans will attend the 1988 affair.

Company B, 179th Infantry Gets Together

Company B, 179th Infantry has conducted a mini-reunion during the Annual Reunion of the 45th Infantry Division Association for the past two years.

The following members answered roll call during the August 1987 reunion: Charles H. Johnson, David L. Beard, Hubbard G. Clapper, Harold Weishuhn, Harold Parker, Garold Barton, Herman Thompson, Roy Urban, Gilbert Curtis, Lee Kaplan, Bill Reeves, Lewis Wood, Irgil Godsey, Franklin Jones, Leo Meier, Joseph Santoro, Joseph Vavak, William Shirey, Carl Strothman, Glenn Lyon, Phillip Gover. Brummett Echohawk phoned, but was unable to attend.

Visitors to the CP included Boris Stephanoff, Charles Nace, Bob Cooper, Phillip Sisselman and Jack Hatfield.

Engineers Reunion in New Mexico

Company A, 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (World War II) held its' annual reunion at the Hilton Pyramid Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Friday 25 September 1987.

There was an excellent turn out of members and wives and the reunion was a resounding success. Two former members of the 120th Engineer Regimental Band were invited guests.

The reunion this year was organized by Ambrose Chavez and Alvaro P. Moraga.

A farewell breakfast was held Sunday morning.

(CHANGED cont'd from page one)

On view outside the museums are numerous military vehicles, planes, and weaponry used in WW II and inside are displayed uniforms and equipment dating back to before the Spanish-American War.

Worth a visit by itself is the Bill Mauldin cartoon display.

Military music sets the mood for inspection of one of the most complete gun displays in the world. It is a treasure trove of military relics and artifacts, including many articles once belonging to the ill-fated German Chancellor Adolph Hitler.

The board of directors that launched this fine asset consisted of Chairman Fred A. Daugherty, MG, USA Ret; First Vice Chairman John Embry, COL. USA Ret (recently made Brigadier General by Adjutant Gen. Don Ferrell); Second Vice Chairman BG William L. Youell; Secretary AG John Coffey; Treasurer LTC Chester Bishop.

My old Battery Commander, John Embry was unable for the first time I know of to be present at the reunion but his wife Jeanette was present to receive an award for the part he played in perpetuating the renown of the 45th Division and the establishment of the museum.

John Embry, by the way, was not only promoted to Brigadier general, he was also awarded the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Cross earlier, and an award for Service and Support to the 45th Infantry Division Association.

He had previously been awarded the Stanley Draper Distinguished Service Award by the Oklahoma Heritage Association for historical works and service to two museums.

As I say, Gen. Embry was unable to be with us in our CP, but Col. Joe Bosa, who succeeded him as our battery commander, was there with his wife Lucille, thoroughly enjoying treats furnished by former Lts. Doy Moody and Wayne Wornom who won battlefield commissions in World War II while serving with Battery C, 171st Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Division.



Mrs. Mary Jane Cook (widow of Woodrow W. Cook) presenting a Sewing Box to Robert A. Wilson, 45th Division Museum Curator (deceased). The sewing box was formerly the property of Benito Mussolini and was obtained by Woody while in Italy during WW II.

Thunderbird Missing Since 1945 Remains Returned Home

Homer "Demp" Wadlow, Company L, 157th Infantry disappeared while in combat in France during World War II. His family never knew any more about his destiny than what was told in the military's standard and sparsely worded telegram reporting him as "missing in action".

Before Homer's mother passed away several years ago, she made her family promise not to give up hope that, one day, their soldier would come marching home, or at least, his fate would become known to them.

A few months ago, Esquolene Powell, Galesburg, IL, one of the missing man's sisters responded to an advertisement placed by Ralph Fink requesting information on former members of the 157th Infantry. Fink suggested that she contact Hugh Foster who is currently writing a book about the battles the 157th Infantry participated in.

On Powell's behalf, Foster contacted the Assistant Chief of Mortuary Affairs and Casualty Support Division, Alexandria, VA. He was advised that Wadlow's records were on his desk to begin a search for the next-of-kin, as the Army's records indicated that his parents were deceased.

Wadlow's body was found near Strasbourg, France by two people searching for war relics with a metal detector. Found with the remains were dog tags, a helmet, buttons, mess gear, shovel, boots and two wallets. Wadlow's wallet contained a letter that was still legible after 42 years underground.

A memorial was conducted in Wadlow's hometown Pilot Knob, Missouri 26 September 1987.

Thunderbird Deaths

LEONARD E. CLARK

Sand Springs, Oklahoma. Leonard was a member of the 179th Infantry during World War II. His widow reported that he passed away July 7, 1987.

TRIS L. BLEDSOE

Pompano Beach, Florida, a native of Marlow, Oklahoma was inducted into active service with the 45th MP Company, Marlow, Oklahoma in September 1940.

After induction he later transferred to the Infantry and remained with the 45th Division until the conclusion of World War II. Bledsoe remained in the Army and retired with the rank of Colonel. After retirement he taught school for ten years in the Brower County Florida School System.

Survivors include his wife Kathleen, of Pompano Beach, a daughter Susan Blyskal of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and a brother Tye R. Bledsoe of Yukon, OK



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Certainly, 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 _____ Telephone: _____

Former or Present Thunderbird Unit. Give complete designation: _____

World War II _____ Pre-Korean War _____ 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.)



Lost Addresses

NAME	CITY/STATE	DUES EXPIRE
Ueal Allen	Blair, OK	1987
Alfred Bevilacqua	Statin Island, NY	1992
Albert Blakey	Auburn, WA	1989
Todd Bryant	Okla.City, OK	1987
Montie L Burchett	Jenks, OK	1987
Harry Chazin	Lauderhill, FL	1988
Steven B. Davis	Mustang, OK	1987
Donald L. Day	Santa Ana, CA	1987
Christopher J. Deck	Okla.City,OK	1987
Maradee Lynn Ellis	Okla.City, OK	1987
James A. Ferguson	Tulsa, OK	1988
Earl W. Flanagan	Okla.City, OK	1987
Fredrick D. Haskins	Lawton, OK	1987
George V.R. Herrman	Lubbock, TX	1987
Albert G. Johnson	Marborough, CT	1992
Terry F. Lauderdale	Ft.Collins,CO	1987
Raymond J. Martinez	Feasterville, PA	1987
Ray H. Matthews	Jenks, OK	1987
Doyle M. McKee	Okla.City, OK	LIFE
David G. Miller	Ada, OK	1988
David B. Mosby	Muskogee, OK	LIFE
Gary Oster	Valley City, ND	1987
Donald Riley	Springfield, MO	1987
Michael Russell	Ada, OK	1987
Charley Sgambati	Long Island, NY	1991
Dennis W. Stine	Nicoma Park, OK	1987
Hugh C. Taylor	Fredricksburg, VA	1989
Garland D. Worrell	Godley, TX	1988

Eastern Chapter Finds Home

The Eastern Chapter of the 45th Infantry Division Association has completed negotiations and issued a March Order to their new CP. Their new meeting room in a facility located at 215 West 23rd Street in New York City.

They conducted a business meeting in their new facility on Friday 13 November.

Congratulations on their success.

Historian Seeks Information

William Borchardt, 4742 Heidelberg, St. Louis, MO 63123, writes that he is an independent historian seeking information, photographs, and personal recollections of turret type pill boxes encountered by the 45th Infantry Division in the St. Maxime, France area, the Vosges Mountains and the Siefried Line.

He is particularly interested in Squad, Platoon and Company tactics utilized in overcoming these static defenses.

Please respond directly to William Borchardt.

New Board Members Elected

The following individuals were elected as members of the 45th Infantry Division Board of Directors during the Annual Reunion:

Term expires 1988:	Kenneth Calhoun Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	Terms expire 1990:
Term expires 1989:	Robert F. Ray Enid, Oklahoma	Wm. Rex Wilson, Yukon, OK Neal E. Dodds and W.Scott Wells Edmond, Oklahoma Danny G. Marler, Norman, OK Allan F. McGilbra, Tulsa, OK Bev A. Finkle, Bridgewater, NH

LIFE MEMBERS

Since Last Newsletter

Casimer A. Arbasak	Dwight G. Longaker
Robert Brescia	James E. Miller
George Ellis	William C. Shirley
Paul G. Montgomery	Stephen J. Standelmeier
Judy A. Morris	

NEW MEMBERS

Since Last Newsletter

LIFE

Casimer A. Arbasak	Dwight G. Longaker
Robert Brescia	Paul G. Montgomery
George Ellis	Jody A. Morris

10-YEAR

Arthur C. Clark, Sr.	Philip W. Hogle
Billy R. Conley	Daryl G. Hook
Joseph S. Giordano	William E. Williams

4 - YEAR

Gilbert L. Adrian	Roger B. Daniel
David B. Bennett	John Frandina
James C. Boswell	Wayne Harkness
John Brink	Edward N. Hathaway
Louis Caldarella	Chester W. Meyers
A.D. Cash	Alvin T. Morton
John P. Curran	Anthony F. Vanacore

2 - YEAR

Hemp S. Glover

1 - YEAR

Christine E. Agan	Terrace D. Norris
Robbie L. Asher	Clyde Oldbear
Paul R. Black	Lloyd L. Palmer
James F. Brown	Salvatore Passariello
James Browne	William S. Percifield
Hawthorne Buchanan	Long Pham
Frank A. Campbell	Harold F. Prentice
David S. Cowan	Russell K. Prewitt
Joseph J. Deroma	William H. Quick
Bernie W. Dille	Dale H. Rebarchik
James D. Dudley	Gary Robbins
Howard A. Dukes	George D. Roberts
Charles D. Evans	Delmer E. Rollins
Orville C. Frank	Dan Ruskoski
Carl L. Franks	Loyd L. Sigle
Edward P. Fuller, Jr.	James R. Smith
Michael R. Gonzales	Miles C. Smith
Robert T. Hixon	Albert Spanel
David W. Holloway	Mark A. Stow
Rusty Holtje	Jeffrey S. Taylor
Shannon T. Jordan	Richard W. Thomason
Robert A. Kennedy	Larry Veit
McEdward Law	Gregory P. Vollmer
Harold C. Loyselle	William White
A. Leigh Mills	Jeffrey L. Wise
Warren Morrow, Jr.	William W. Yeniscavich
Curtis Nation	

45th Infantry Division Association
2145 N.E. 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

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