

45th Division News

January 1990

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

THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS

ROBERT TRYON FREDERICK



Winston Churchill said he was "the greatest fighting general of all time." At age 37, he was the youngest Major General and youngest division commander in the Army ground forces.

Robert Tryon Frederick was born on 14 March 1907 in San Francisco, California, the only son of Doctor and Mrs. Marcus White Frederick.

He entered the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1924; at age 17

he was the youngest in his class. He graduated on 9 June 1928 with standing in the middle of his class, but seventh in tactics (later he was to decisively prove his expertise in this area) and accepted a commission as Second Lieutenant of Coast Artillery. The same day he married his sweetheart, Ruth Harloe.

Over the next 11 years, Lieutenant Frederick served in every area of Coast Artillery, seacoast and antiaircraft, attending the Coast Artillery School in 1937. In 1939, as a Captain, he graduated from the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth. He was then assigned to duty in Hawaii.

In August 1941 he was assigned to the small War Plans Division of the War Department under Major General Dwight Eisenhower. In 1942 he was a Lieutenant Colonel assessing the multitude of plans submitted for winning the war quickly. He wrote a paper recommending that the United States reject a proposal submitted by Great Britain for a joint Allied force of soldiers specializing in snow warfare that would be parachuted into Norway to help contain the German forces there. The Joint Chiefs of Staff accepted the task, however, and General Marshall named Lieutenant Colonel Frederick to head the force to be known as the First Special Service Force (FSSF), a unit composed of rugged Canadian and American soldiers and promoted Frederick to Colonel. This unit of 3,000 soldiers trained in Montana in Arctic assault operations, as parachutists, ski troops, demolition experts and small unit fighters without equal. The Force spearheaded the Aleutian Islands Kiska operation in August 1943 and five days later was withdrawn and returned at Churchill's request and launched into combat in Italy north of Naples late in November 1943 where the FSSF was assigned to the Fifth US Army

and served valiantly in combat. Frederick was promoted to Brigadier General on 18 January 1944 at the age of 36. During his tour of combat with the FSSF he was wounded nine times.

In July 1944, having attained the age of 37 in March, he was promoted to Major General and directed to organize the First Airborne Task Force, a provisional division of parachute and glider forces of U.S. and British units organized to execute the airborne phase of the invasion of Southern France on 15 August 1944. Quickly assembled and trained, the unit spearheaded the invasion and protected the right flank of the U.S. Seventh Army during the invasion and liberated the French Riviera and Monaco.

On 3 December 1944 Major General Robert T. Frederick was assigned to the third combat commander of the 45th Infantry Division when Major General W.W. Eagles was wounded and evacuated to the States.

After the war, he commanded the Coast Artillery School at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, and was instrumental in getting the school moved to San Francisco. In 1948, he became commanding general of European Command, Austria. In 1949, he assumed command of Fort Ord, California. In 1951, he commanded the U.S. Military Aid Group to Greece. In 1952, at age 45, he received a disability retirement from the Army based on wounds received in combat during World War II.

General Frederick's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster; the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster; Silver Star; Air Medal; Bronze Star; Purple Heart with seven Oak Leaf Clusters; Italian Silver Medal for Military Valor; French Legion of Honor (Officer); Croix de Guerre with Palm; British Distinguished Service Order; and the Order of St. Charles, Grand Officer, given by the Principality of Monaco. In addition, three countries have named memorials in his honor: Frederick Field House, Fort Bragg, N.C.; Frederick Barracks, the headquarters of Special Forces, Canadian Forces Base Petawawa; and Frederick Quartier, once his headquarters in Southern France, not a national monument.

Major General Robert T. Frederick died on 29 November 1970 and was buried with military honors in the Presidio Military Cemetery, San Francisco. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and two daughters, Mrs. Anne Hicks and Mrs. Jane Fee.

Winston Churchill's words of praise for Robert T. Frederick were certainly symbolic of the man and his accomplishments as the "Fightin'est general in the Army." He is missed by all who knew him and served under his outstanding leadership.

COMBAT CHRONICLES

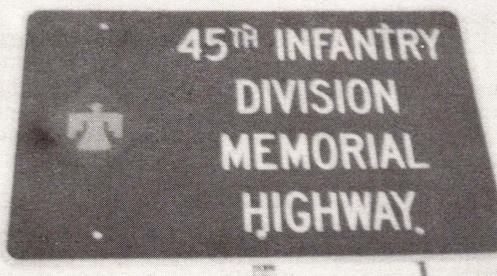
Do you remember where you were and what you were doing 45 or 46 years ago, in January of 1944 or 1945? Well, if you were a member of the 45th Infantry Division you were engaged in heavy combat in Italy, France, and Germany.

New Year's Day of 1944 found the division continuing its attacks against the enemy in the Italian mountains above VENAFRO in the vicinity of MOUNT MOLINO and MOUNT RAIMO. The weather was miserable with intermittent blowing snow and sleet, rain and high winds. The division had been in continuous combat since November 1st. On New Year's Eve, division artillery fired 6,274 rounds at enemy strongpoints. Poor visibility limited infantry activity on both sides.

On January 9, the division was officially relieved from its sector of the front line after 70 days of continuous combat and moved into reserve areas in the vicinity of LAGONE. Between then and January 15, division elements moved into concentration areas near NAPLES to train and reequip for embarkation and move to ANZIO.

On the night of January 20 the 179 RCT moved to a staging area in the vicinity of QUALIANO and passed to the control of the 1st Armored Division. The remainder of the division was moved to a staging area in the vicinity of CIAVANO and was attached to the VI Corps

Continued on next page.



45TH INFANTRY DIVISION MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

45th Infantry Division Memorial Highway signs are in place from Boise City in the Northwest corner of the panhandle of Oklahoma to Broken Bow in the Southeast corner of the state. This was formerly State Highway 3. The approximate length of the highway is 550 miles.

This is a great honor bestowed on the 45th Infantry Division by the State of Oklahoma.

Continued from previous page.

and began moving to various concentration areas near points of embarkation at NAPLES, NISIDA, and PUZZUOLI. The division, less 179 RCT, embarked on 28 January for the move to ANZIO.

The 179 RCT landed at ANZIO-NETTUNO on 22 January 1944, within hours after the assault troops had hit the beach. The balance of the division debarked on the 30th and 31st and moved to assembly areas N of NETTUNO. On their move from the docks to an assembly area, the 158th Field Artillery was heavily bombed and the loaded vehicles of Battery B were severely damaged and the unit suffered some casualties. The division did not engage in any measurable amount of combat until February. Four months later Allied units on the ANZIO BEACHHEAD were able to break the German resistance and move out toward the liberation of ROME.

January 1945. That New Year, 45 years ago, dawned clear and extremely cold. The division had advanced into Germany and was fighting through the SIEGFRIED LINE with defensive position from DAMBACH to OBERSTEINBACH when it was ordered to fall back into France to straighten the Allied lines that had been pushed back further North by the German Winter Offensive that came to be known as "the Bulge."

Throughout the month of January, the 45th Division was to engage in some of the most bitter and toughest fighting of the war while on the defensive to prevent the breakthrough of crack, fresh German SS units brought in from Finland where they had been trained for fighting in the bitter, miserably cold Winter weather that prevailed that year on the French-German border. The German Army thrust the best units they had against the 45th Division in an attempt to breakthrough our lines and gain any advantage that would prolong the war and keep the Allies out of Germany. But, they lost, because the Thunderbirds would not allow Germany's best the opportunity to crack our lines. The stubborn resistance and fierce fighting of the 45th Division contributed immensely toward the decimation of the crack German forces who gave their best efforts toward one last effort to defeat the Allies during the Winter Offensive of 1945.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

During the Korean War, officers and enlisted men from your division served with our unit (6147 Tactical Control Squadron from July 1950 to April 1951, and the 6147 Tactical Control Group from April 1951 to dissolution of the unit in 1956) as Observers, flying in the back seat of a T-6. They were attached for a period of 90 days, but most extended for longer periods of time.

Our unit's nickname was the "Mosquitos." The unit performed reconnaissance beyond the front lines to locate targets and then directed fighter-bombers on those targets. The team of an Air Force pilot and an Army Observer flying "low and slow" in the T-6 performed in an outstanding manner. During the Korean War, our unit received six U.S. Presidential Unit Citations and two Korean Presidential Unit Citations. The individual Observers garnered many Air Medals and Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Veterans of the 6147th, both Air Force and Army, formed a non-profit veterans organization: The Mosquito Association, Inc. We have a yearly reunion, send out four newsletters a year, and publish a yearly directory.

The "Mosquitos" are searching for those brave Observers who flew combat with us. If you have a publication, would you please advertise for us? I have enclosed the names of a few men that I know came from your unit. This data came from old orders that identified their Army unit. I'm sure there are many more men from your unit that served with us, but the old orders do not always identify the U.S. Army unit the men came from - and, we are missing a lot of old orders.

If anyone in your division association is identified, would you please have them contact me, and I will send them a package of data about our unit. TOM CRAWFORD, Past President, The Mosquito Association, Inc., 5129 West Maplewood Ave., Littleton, CO 80123. (303) 795-2818.

(Ed note: Col Crawford listed these personnel that he knew were from the 45th: 1 LT Theodore M. Gray, Hq Co, 3d Bn, 279 Inf; 2 LT Ben C. Rebman, (MIA 19 May 53, Returned POW); 2 LT Richard W. Schulke, Hq Co, 180th Inf; 1 LT Franklin T. Shippen, Hq 1st Bn, 180th Inf; and 1 LT William H. Wilson, Co. E, 279th Inf.)

I was drafted in 1950 and placed in the 45th Division at Camp Polk, La. After 3 months training there, we went to New Orleans, La. on the train and boarded the luxury liner USS General Wiegell (sic), along with five thousand other troops, for a nice trip through the Panama Canal, across the Pacific to dock in Hokkaido, Japan.

Then we had another train ride for our next destination which was Chitose where we spent about 7 months training and living out of tents. The quanset huts were finished with heat and indoor plumbing and we moved in for 3 weeks before we packed again for a short

truck ride to board a ship for Korea. After 7 months of outdoor living and C-ration eating, I was discharged in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

I was in Co. B, 2nd Platoon, 180th Infantry for the full time of my service and would like to hear from anyone that might have shared similar experiences. GORDON H. MOORE, P.O. Box 599, Demopolis, AL 36732.

Mr. A.F. McGilbra, President
45th Infantry Division Association
2145 N.E. 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Dear Mr. McGilbra

Congratulations on your election as President. The duties of your office demand much more of your time and effort than most of us "absentee" members can realize. So good luck and please be sure that your efforts are appreciated.

In the newsletter of October, you asked for suggestions or ideas for improvements. I hope this does not inundate you with gripes and complaints over petty details. For myself, I have nothing but praise for the reunions and the museum.

The reunions are well planned and run smoothly (I have been to two so far). The museum is the best I have seen. I have been to the two at Ft. Hood, Tex; Ft. Sheridan, Ill; Ft. Polk, La; and the two at Ft. Devens, Mass. They tend to be older, smaller buildings with fairly small exhibits. In fairness to the American Division one at Devens, I believe it is not the official post museum so they have to fend for themselves. The volunteer workers have been hospitable on my several visits to the museum.

So our reunions and museum people deserve a pat on the back for a job well done. This is not just my opinion, but all of the other people I have talked to.

My only concern as you mention in your message, is the continuing membership. After my first reunion, I had drafted a suggestion letter, but had not mailed it, so here is the gist of it.

It appeared to me that there was not much representation at the reunion by the Korean vets. I think this is the result of an attitude problem and not knowing that the association exists.

The attitude problem is probably not solvable—we K-vets didn't feel we were saving the world from Axis tyranny. Our time with the division was at most from Camp Polk to 36 points and out of Korea. We also lacked an appreciation of the record of the 45th in the "old war," so we were ignorant of the traditions to be followed. Just recently, I read Gen. Eisenhower's book and was surprised to read of his pleasure at having the 45th available to go to Africa with him. At any rate this "attitude" problem is there, but perhaps by now, it may have mellowed and the vets might appreciate seeing more of their friends from long ago.

The "awareness" problem can be partially solved by personal contact. In my own case, I joined after talking to my friend from Racine who somehow heard of the Association. So this approach could be successful on a limited scale.

For a broader publicity approach, I would suggest that the next newsletter include a sample letter advising of the existence of the Association and inviting any former division members to join. Such letter could be sent to the member's local newspaper as a feature item or in the typical "Letters to the Editor" column. It could also be sent to the member's local DAV, American Legion or VFW post. The address of the Association could be included in the letter or better, if the member would handle the local inquiries by including his name and telephone number.

Thank you for your time to read this and if I have brought up an old idea, at least you are aware that there is some interest outside of Oklahoma. It is important to keep alive the memory of past wars and sacrifices so that it doesn't happen again and our children and grandchildren (girls included) may be spared. The service experience is invaluable for the training and friendships, but not when our finest people get hurt.

Again good luck in the coming year and I hope your committee people and the museum staff know that they are appreciated.

Very truly yours, DONALD R. CARLSON, 830 Armour Road, P.O. Box 639, Oconomowoc, WI 53066-0639. (414) 567-8311.

(Ed. note: Carlson was a member of 180 Infantry.)

FORSKOM COMMANDER VISITS MUSEUM

General Edwin H. Burba, Jr., who is the Commander in Chief, Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia, and a native Oklahoman, visited the 45th Division Museum in November at the invitation of MG Fred Daugherty. He wrote General Daugherty the following letter of thanks after his visit:

Dear Fred:

Thanks for the tour of the finest museum I have ever seen. Your
Continued on next page.

★ ★ ★ THUNDERBIRD DEATHS ★ ★ ★

WILLIAM C LENSCH, Cedar Rapids, IA. Born 27 December 1924, Died 17 June 1989 in St Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids. He was buried with full military honors provided by American Legion Post No 5, Cedar Rapids.

William entered military service in January 1944 and was assigned to the 45th Infantry Division in July 1944. He served as a Rifleman and Automatic Rifleman with the 179th Infantry Regiment until the December 1944-January 1945 time frame when he was captured by the German Army and remained a Prisoner of War until termination of the war in May 1945.

Awards and decorations include the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart and ETO Ribbon with three battle stars.

Shortly after returning home from World War II, Bill married Margaret Novak of Cedar Rapids. He was a truck driver and supervisor for American Freight Systems.

Survivors include his wife Margaret, a son, Lawrence of Arizona, a daughter, Sheryl Bostrom of Cedar Rapids, two brothers, five sisters and six grandchildren.

CARL STROTHMANN, Pawnee, OK. Died 2 August 1989 at age 76. He was buried with military honors in the Pawnee cemetery.

He was mobilized in September 1940 with Company B, 179th Infantry and served with that unit throughout World War II as First Sergeant. Awards and decorations include the Silver Star, 5 bronze stars, Purple Heart with one oak leaf cluster, Good Conduct Medal and all authorized ETO Service Ribbons.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, one son and one daughter.

PAUL B BELL, Yukon, OK. Died 26 November 1989 at age 87. He was a graduate of Stout Institute, received his Bachelors degree from Oklahoma City University and Masters from Oklahoma University. He was a teacher in the Oklahoma City school system from 1921 to 1939.

Bell entered military service as a private in the Minnesota National Guard and joined the Oklahoma National Guard after moving to Oklahoma City in 1923.

He was mobilized with the 45th Infantry Division as a Battalion Commander in the 189th Field Artillery Regiment. When the Division was triangularized from a square division in 1941, Bell was assigned as commander of an organization that was not a part of the 45th Division.

Bell commanded a combat artillery organization in Europe during World War II. He later served as Commanding General, 95th Infantry Division USAR from 1958 until 1962.

Combat awards and decorations include, Silver Star, Bronze Star w/second award, Legion of Merit and Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Bell was a former Deputy Director of the Federal Civil Defense training school in Stillwater, OK and Vice President of Central National Bank when he retired in 1967.

General Bell is survived by his wife Mae, one son, two daughters, 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

CLARE J LYON, Pawnee, OK. Died 27 June 1989 at Pawnee Municipal Hospital, at age 75.

Clare mobilized with the 179th Infantry Regiment in September 1940 as a Master Sergeant. He later attended Officers Candidate School and obtained an appointment as a commissioned officer. He was then assigned to the Pacific Theatre where he attained the rank of Major.

He and Stella Radley of Pawnee were married in October 1941. After World War II, beginning in 1946 Clare and Stella operated a jewelry store in Pawnee.

Clare is survived by his wife, Stella, a son, 3 grandchildren, 2 brothers and 1 sister. One brother, Glenn Lyon of Pawnee is a long-time Thunderbird. Glenn commanded Company B, 179th Infantry in combat during World War II.

ROY W JOHNSON, Albuquerque, NM. Died 20 September 1989 at age 97.

Roy served in the US Army during World War I and was wounded three times. He was twice cited for heroism by the French Government and was awarded the French Croix-de-Guerre while serving as a First Lieutenant during WWI.

Roy commanded Company D, 120th Engineer Regiment during the 1940-1941 time frame.

He left the 45th Division in the summer of 1941 for transfer to the Army Air Corps and was separated as a Lt Colonel at the end of World War II.

He was the first full-time Director of Athletics at the University of New Mexico.

Roy Johnson touched the lives of many people and was the recipient of many honors during his long life.

(Submitted by Alvaro P Moraga, Co A, 120th Engr Bn)

THERALD D BRACKEN, Ponca City, OK. Died 29 October 1989 at age 78 in his home.

Bracken served with the 189th Field Artillery Battalion during World War II. He retired from the United States Army in 1961 after serving 21 years.

He is survived by his wife Marjorie, a son, a sister and two grandchildren.

BENJAMIN F COUNTER, Ft Lupton, CO. Died 9 September 1989 after being injured in an automobile accident.

Ben was a World War II member of the 160th Field Artillery Battalion. (Info furnished by Minnie Lemaster based on phone call from Ben's daughter).

HARRY "HAP" PARENT, Casper, WY. Died 12 October 1989 at age 69. He was buried with military honors in the Oregon Trail Veterans Cemetery.

Harry was born 28 October 1919 in Sand Springs, OK. He grew up and was educated in Wewoka, OK.

He was a member of the 160th Field Artillery Bn in World War II and Korea.

Harry is survived by his wife, Mildred, one son, one daughter and five stepchildren, two brothers, 23 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

RAYSON BILLEY, Muskogee, OK. Died October 24, 1989 at the Muskogee, OK Veterans Administration Medical Center. He was 71.

Billey was an inspiration for the "Willie and Joe" cartoons created by Bill Mauldin during World War II.

Billey served in the 180th Infantry Regiment in World War II and Mauldin has been quoted as saying "He was my guru. He taught me about the Army and how to get along in the Infantry." Mauldin said he grew from his experience in the Army to comment on the war. Billey, a Choctaw Indian from Keota, gave him some of that experience during their stint together in the 45th Infantry Division.

He sort of took me under his wing. He was a tough, seasoned old soldier, the 68 year old cartoonist said.

EUGENE DAVIS, Wills Point, TX. Died in April 1989. He joined the 45th Division in 1941 and served until the end of WW II.

Davis was a member of many veterans organizations. He had served over 12,500 hours of volunteer service at various VA hospitals. He was a life member of Wichita Chapter DAV, where he served as the quartermaster for three years and the chaplain for one year. He served as the Commander of the Third Kansas District DAV for one year.

Davis had been fighting cancer for almost three years. Saturday, April 22, on the way home from a final visit with family and friends in Kansas and Oklahoma, he was involved in a fatal accident.

Eugene is survived by his wife, Maxine and many relatives.

Continued on next page.

**ASSOCIATION NEEDS UNIT/ORGANIZATION DATA
FOR
LIFE MEMBERS**

Former unit/organization is needed for the following "LIFE" members to complete association records:

NAME	CITY AND STATE	NAME	CITY AND STATE
Able, Charles F.	Okla. City, OK	Cordell, LLOYD B.	Tulsa, OK
Adwan, Alex K.	Tulsa, OK	Cox, Dave H.	Stillwater, OK
Allen, R.E.	Buena Vista, PA	Cox, Joseph R.	Mission, TX
Allen, Wilber M.	Bethlehem, PA	Craven, Melford P.	Salt Lake City, UT
Arbasak, Casimir A.	St. Petersburg, FL	Crawford, Cecil D.	Okla. City, OK
Bachman, Anthony F.	Lydhurst, NJ	Creamer, Patrick E.	Bellmore, Li, NY
Baker, Ralph A.	Okla. City, OK	Culbertson, Kenneth	Oil City, PA
Baskins, Jimmy D.	Muskogee, OK	Davis, Harold W.	Highland, KS
Battles, Eugene D.	Denver, CO	Dayton, David J.	Walnut Creek, CA
Bedniz, Edmund J.	Wesleyville, PA	Dehart, Roy E.	Okla. City, OK
Bennett, James D.	Depew, OK	Denoncourt, Arthur J.	Tulsa, OK
Benson, John D.	Washington, D.C.	Dimond, Frederick Jr.	Stoughton, MA
Bevenue, Everett B.	Tulsa, OK	Disabatino, C.E.	Rehoboth Bch, DE
Blahnik, Romauld J.	Chicago, IL	Dube, Wilfred	Pelham, NH
Blodgett, M.F.	Okla. City, OK	Dunham, Paul A.	Marshall, TX
Bolak, Frank J.	Warminster, PA	Dunnington, Robert C.	Cherokee, OK
Bomhoff, Thomas A.	Yukon, OK	Dupre, Norris J.	Houma, LA
Borelli, John W.	Okla. City, OK	Eleford, Jack F.	Staten Island, NY
Bowman, Hazard C.	Sapulpa, OK	Elliott, Orin R.	Edmond, OK
Bowser, Gerald R. Jr.	Woodward, OK	Ellis, Elvis E.	Midwest City, OK
Boyd, Hubert P.	McMinnville, TN	Embry, James A. Jr.	Austin, TX
Bracy, Russell E.	Weatherford, OK	Erskine, Andrew E.	Muskogee, OK
Braczyk, Eugene E.	Webster, MA	Estes, Archie	Austin, TX
Branch, Deabon E.	Cleveland, TX	Faken, Robert L.	Ponca City, OK
Briscoe, Mason II	Richmond, TX	Farmer, Larry A.	Salina, KS
Buchfink, John H.	Jackson, MI	Farrah, Chuck	Morengo, IL
Burchfiel, William E.	Okla. City, OK	Flaherty, Stephen F.	Quincy, MA
Burgett, H. Doug	Columbia, TN	Foreman, Lewis	Okla. City, OK
Butler, Joe	Paso Robles, CA	Franklin, Charles J.	Chandler, OK
Butler, O. Doyle	Midland, TX	Frazier, James C.	Hominy, OK
Caffrey, Harold C.	Denver, CO	Frazier, Robert E.	Pasadena, TX
Campbell, Clark O.	Everett, WA	French, Enos G.	Epping, ND
Carrier, William H.	Baton Rouge, LA	Fritz, James R. Sr.	St. Allentown, PA
Carter, Donald L. Jr.	Bristow, OK	Furcht, Raymond H.	Aurora, CO
Carter, Donald L. Sr.	Bristow, OK	Gabehart, Albert	Canyon, TX
Cave, Stanley M. III	New York, NY	Garriott, David D.	Norman, OK
Chambers, John L.	Huntsville, AL	George, Jacob	Whittier, NC
Childs, Reginald L.	Fort Pierce, FL	Gerber, Lynn E.	Alva, OK
Choate, Ralph J.	Hennessey, OK	Gibson, William E.	Okla. City, OK
Churchill, Leonard K.	Jenks, OK	Gilbert, M.D.	Reno, NV
Clark, Bill	Okla. City, OK	Goddard, Charles	Lexington, OK
Clarke, Finley K.	Smyrna, ME	Goddard, Donald L.	Brandon, OR
Coffin, Melvin T.	Waukomis, OK	Gontcharenko, Boris A.	Brielle, NJ
Coffman, William J.	Norman, OK	Goodner, Thomas J.	Lindsay, OK
Collins, James P.	Denver, CO	Grass, Buster	Bethany, OK
Collyar, Robert W.	Arkansas City, KS	Gray, Warren S.	Odessa, TX
Conley, Jesse	Fairland, OK	Greene, Edwin L.	Fayetteville, GA
		Gunlikson, Willis	Williston, ND

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pride and enthusiasm in that grand old institution came through loud and clear, and I was proud to be a part of it. Your dedication and concern for keeping our history of Oklahoma alive is truly appreciated by all and especially by me.

Thanks, Judge, for all that you have done for our Army and its super 45th Division. I look forward to seeing you again when I return to our great State of Oklahoma.

Sincerely, Edwin H. Burba, Jr., General, U.S. Army

KOREAN VETERAN VISITS BUDDIES

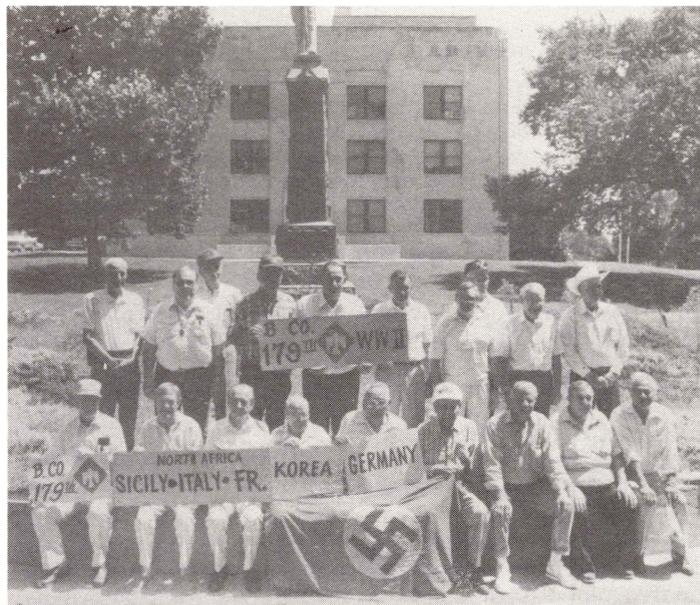


Jack Ewer (L), James Solka (R).

Jack Ewer, Loup City, Nebraska recently visited some old friends from the Korean War. All are former members of the 158th Field Artillery.

Jack and his wife visited Roger Thomas and John Skierski in the area of Madison Heights, Michigan. They also visited James Solka and Martin Tasson in Ishpeming, Michigan.

Ewer and James Solka are shown in Solka's home.



Company B 179th Infantry. Front row, L to R - Harold Parker, Franklin Jones, Glenn Lyon, Roy Urban, Gilbert Curtis, Phill Gover, Bill Vavak, Harold Weishuhn, Brummett Echohawk. Back row, L to R - Kenneth Conaway, Charles Johnson, Robert Schultz, James Reed, Roy Cox, G.R. (Willie) Williamson, Mike Hunt, George Turnbo, David Beard, Paul Kohler.

REUNION NOTICES

Reunion of 189th FIELD ARTILLERY BN and 645th TANK DESTROYER BN will be held 26-29 April 1990 at the Howard Johnson Hotel & Convention Center in Lawton, Oklahoma. Contact Kenneth McDonald, HC 30, Box 1775, Lawton, OK 73501-9139. (405) 429-8203.

REUNION REPORTS

Co A, 120 Engr Combat Bn WWII (formerly Co D, 120th Engr Regt) held its annual reunion on 11 November 1989 at the Sheraton Old Town in Albuquerque, NM.

An outstanding reunion (each year simply gets better) was enjoyed by the greatest turnout to date. A social and get-reacquainted period was followed by a superb buffet dinner.

Two former Company Commanders were present and we had comrades from Pennsylvania, Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas and as always, a majority from Albuquerque and New Mexico from where this Company and the Battalion originated.

Once again, Ambrose V. Chavez was the reunion ramrod, with assistance from A.P. Moraga, Lowell Hughes and Eulogio Sanchez. On Sunday, 12 November, a champagne brunch was well-attended and our goodbyes said until the next time.

We plan to have a good representation at the 45th reunion of the 45th Infantry Division next year in Oklahoma City. See you there!

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: ALVARO P. MORAGA, 355 Tyler Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

Several members of B Company, 179th Infantry enjoyed a small reunion in Pawnee, Oklahoma on Wednesday, August 23, 1989 before going to Oklahoma City for the 45th Division reunion. Many of these members joined the unit as replacements in Europe during WWII and had never been to Pawnee, the home of B, 179th when it was activated in 1940. They plan to meet again in August 1990.

Co, G 180th Infantry was well represented at the 44th annual reunion of the 45th Division during August in Oklahoma City. Those attending and enjoying comradeship were: Jim Phipps, Raul Trevino, Bob Alexander, Ralph Dunn, Howard Schreiber, Eugene Capitonoff, Leland Woods, Ed Wolfe, Charles Kilgore, Berton Stotler, Wilburn Hunt, and Manon McDaniel.

AUTHOR SEEKS INFO ON BATTLE FOR NUREMBERG

Army officer formerly stationed in Nuremburg, Germany is seeking to contact veterans who fought in the battle for that city in April 1945. I am beginning research for a book on the subject. CPT Edward G. Miller, 15989 Cove Ln., Dumfries, VA 22026. (703) 878-0809.



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.)



Continued from previous page.

FELIX P GLAVIN, Bonnots Mill, MO. Died 12 August 1989 at the age of 67. Felix served with the 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Division in combat during World War II. He was awarded a bronze star incident to this service. He also served during the Korean War.

Felix and Wilma Donehue were married 5 December 1944. He is survived by his wife, Wilma, a son, four daughters, a sister, two brothers and 10 grandchildren.

Wilma said that Felix was very proud of his service with the 45th Division.

VERLYN P MACK, Hammond, IN. Died 7 August 1989. Verlyn served in the 160th Field Artillery Battalion during World War II and was wounded in action 18 November 1943 in Italy.

Verlyn's widow, Grace, stated that he served in Headquarters Battery and his Commanding Officer was Captain Ben Counter who is also listed in this section.

Grace said that she is having a difficult time adjusting to her loss. She and Verlyn were married for 49 years. She said she had lost her partner and best friend.

HARRY "BILL" THOMAS, Erie, PA. Died 4 September 1989 at age 69. Bill was a member of the 45th Signal Company, Infantry Division through the Anzio Campaign and then was reassigned to the 3151st SIAM Company. He later served in the Army of Occupation in Korea.

Information on Bill's death was furnished by his brother Evan G Thomas, Erie PA. Evan said that he was unable to obtain entry to Bill's safety deposit box at the bank, therefore, he was unable to furnish data as to appropriate combat awards and decorations.

Thomas was an employee of National Forge Company for 31 years and retired in 1981.

Survivors include a brother, Evan and a sister Mrs Charlotte Eichelsdorfer.

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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.

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Address news contributions and other correspondence to Editor, 45th Division News, 45th Infantry Division Association, 2145 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111. **DO NOT SEND ITEMS THAT MUST BE RETURNED!**

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- TAPS**
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