

45th Division News

January, 1993

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

COMBAT CHRONICLES

179th INFANTRY REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM COMBAT IN ITALY, OCTOBER 1943

The 45th Infantry Division turned North in the vicinity of BENEVENTO, moving up the spine of Italy, through the rugged mountains of central Italy. The British VIII Army was on the division's right and the American 34th Infantry Division was on the left.

On October 1st, the 3rd Battalion, 179th RCT was moved by motors to the vicinity NE of GUARDIA LOMBARDI to protect the division rear during the move and to relieve the 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry Regiment. Troops of the 179th were strafed on the road by planes reported to be American P-51s. Enemy delaying action was heavy through use of demolitions and mine laying by small groups on bypasses and in possible bivouac areas.

Heavy rain with some hail fell all afternoon and night of October 3rd, impeding movement of divisional units that had been ordered to relieve the 34th Infantry Division in the vicinity of BENEVENTO. Again, American P-51s fired on 179th Infantry personnel, wounding personnel and damaging material. The 179th RCT moved to the vicinity of GROTTAMINARDA and relieved the 3rd Battalion, 180th Infantry.

Heavy rainfall, increased enemy artillery fire, blown bridges, and mining of roads continued to make forward progress by the 179th RCT very difficult and slow throughout the first week of October. On October 9, the 179th passed through the 157th Infantry and turned North toward S. LORENZO with the mission of enveloping GUARDIA from the North. Progress was slowed by heavy artillery and mortar fire, but the regiment seized the high ground just West of S. LORENZO at 2030 that night.

On October 10, the 3rd Battalion, 179th Infantry attacked in the direction of GUARDIA at daylight with the plan of enveloping the town from the high ground to the North and supporting the attack by fire from positions to the South. Because of the excellent concealment offered the enemy by the terrain and his skillful employment of automatic weapons and artillery, the 3rd Battalion was heavily engaged throughout the day. By dark, however, the battalion had surrounded the town and the attack continued in the direction of CERRETO.

The 2nd Battalion, 179th entered GUARDIA on October 11 against slight resistance. The battalion enveloped CERRETO and entered the town at 1100 on October 12, encountering small arms, sniper, and artillery fire. The battalion continued to the TITERNO River and crossed at S. LORENZELLO.

Heavy rain continued to fall every day, making the already miserable road conditions even worse, if possible. The 179th RCT continued to advance on FONTANA against light opposition. The RCT advanced toward their objective of the SW side of MT. ACERO and occupied the objective shortly after daylight on October 13.

The 179th RCT was subjected to intense artillery fire, mostly from self-propelled guns and tanks, plus the enemy freely used his rocket mortars, the awesome Nebelwerfer "Screaming Meemie," to great psychological advantage. Regardless, the regiment reached the outskirts of FAICCHIO by nightfall of October 15. Patrols picked up 12 prisoners and they confirmed that there was considerable disorganization among enemy troops as a result of our heavy artillery concentrations, which the prisoners considered very violent.

The 179th RCT went into division reserve on October 17 and remained in assembly area until October 20. On that day, October 20, marked the 40th day of continuous fighting for the 45th Division, making it the longest period an American division in the European Theater of Operations had been in the line without relief.

For the remainder of October, division troops carried out patrols and reconnaissance in the area of PIEDIMONTE and in preparation for crossing of the VOLTURNO River.

ERNEST CHILDERS HONORED BY HIS HOMETOWN



The Broken Arrow, Oklahoma Rotary Club recently honored Thunderbird Ernest Childers with a reception in celebration of the Ernest Childers Commemorative Project. The goal of this project is to erect a "larger than life" sculpture to honor Ernest Childers through the artistry of internationally acclaimed sculptor Allan Houser.

This community project was initiated to promote the native American heritage of the area and the patriotism of Broken Arrow citizens. To date over \$94,000 has been raised toward the goal of \$150,00. This is an especially appropriate activity for this year since the State of Oklahoma has designated 1992 as the "Year of the Indian".

On 22 September 1943 2d Lt Ernest Childers a 25 year old Creek Indian from Broken Arrow, OK single-handedly wiped out two machine gun nests, killing five enemy soldiers and captured a German mortar emplacement. He was subsequently awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for these actions.

45TH DIVISION MUSEUM HOSTS VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

State Senator William G. Gustafson, El Reno, OK was the principal speaker for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony conducted at the 45th Infantry Division Museum. Senator Gustafson was severely wounded while serving as a member of the 179th Infantry during the Korean War and was subsequently hospitalized for medical care and rehabilitation for a period of one year.

Inclement weather required conducting the ceremonies inside the museum. Limited space precluded performance by the Jefferson Middle School Band, firing of the Hotchkiss Mountain Gun salute by Gene Church and crew, Massing of the Colors and the Helicopter flyover.

The Sooner Sensations presented a medley of songs and the memorial wreath was presented by Mrs. Vida Cook, President of the Oklahoma City, Chapter of the Gold Star Wives and Tom Feuerborn, Director, Oklahoma Civil Defense.

The Museum Events Committee served refreshments at the conclusion of the ceremony.

" MAULDIN PRINT MAIL ORDER FORM INSIDE "

THE GREAT TOILET SEAT RAFFLE

Shortly after the Sicilian Campaign Bob Hope and Frances Langford performed for the 45th Division. during their stay they were supported by the 45th Signal Company.

The unit commander required that a separate latrine be constructed for Ms. Langford's use. Observers reported that the facility was in fact used by Ms. Langford. After departure of the entertainers, the carpenter who constructed the latrine, removed the seat and sold it to the highest bidder for \$200.00.

Frances Langford recently confirmed to Harold C. Stuart, Tulsa, that this was a true story and had been published in the Stars and Stripes several years ago. She also stated that she had never received her 10% commission on the raffle.

DID YOU LOSE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

In picking up the pieces after the reunion in August a packet of "color photographs" was discovered in the Gazebo area. The photographs appear to have been taken at the commissioning of the USS Anzio and at the "Abilene Affair".

After appropriate identification the photographs will be mailed to the rightful owner.

MILITARY TRIVIA

Did you know that at one time the senior officer in the U.S. Army was a Captain? And, that the entire U.S. Army consisted of only 80 men? On June 2, 1784, the continental Congress abolished the Army as being "inconsistent with the principles of republican governments, dangerous to the liberties of a free people, and generally converted into destructive engines for establishing despotism."

The declaration stated that 25 privates were to be retained in the Army to guard the supplies at Fort Pitt and 55 to guard the stores at West Point, with a proportionate number of officers, no officer to remain in service above the grade of Captain. The detachment at Fort Pitt was commanded by a Lieutenant and the one at West Point by Captain John Doughty, making him the senior officer in the U.S. Army.

Contrary to popular belief, George Washington, the first Commanding General of an American Army during the Revolutionary War, held only the rank of Lieutenant General, three star. The rank of General, four stars, was established during the Civil War and held by Generals Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan. The next full general was to be John J. Pershing, who held the rank along with General Peyton March and Tasker Bliss during World War I.

The highest rank in the Army reverted to Major General after the Army was reorganized in 1784 and the grade of Lieutenant General was not reestablished until 1864.

John J. Pershing was the only person to hold the rank of General of the Armies, established by an Act of Congress during World War I. General of the Armies Pershing was authorized to design an insignia befitting his esteemed rank, but he chose to wear only the four stars of a full general. The grade died with General Pershing.

During World War II, Congress wanted to establish a super star rank that would be comparable to that of a Marshal or Field Marshal in the British Army. The name of Marshal for the rank was bandied about, but it was decided that Marshal Marshall (for General George C. Marshall) would not be appropriate, so the name "General of the Army" was chosen, being careful not to confuse it with the one-of-a-kind "General of the Armies" rank bestowed on General Pershing. Five U.S. Army general officers held the rank of General of the Army: Chief of Staff George C. Marshall, ETO commander Dwight D. Eisenhower, Pacific Theater commander Douglas MacArthur, Army Air Corps commander Hap Arnold, and Omar Bradley, commander of an Army Group in WWII.

LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

I was assigned to Company B, 180th Infantry at Fort Devens, MA and later assigned to the Chemical Section of Division Headquarters. I served throughout the war until May 1945. I would like to locate a close friend and buddy Donald R. McRell.

ORVILLE C. FRANK, 2 Buccaneer Drive, Leesburg, FL 34788, 904/326-4234.

I would like to contact anyone who served in the 120th Medical Battalion in Korea during the period 1951-1952 who knows the current address of Sgt "Woody" Woods and PFC Mastie who were assigned to Company M, 179th Infantry during that period.

GEORGE BROWNEE, 1216 Ridgecrest Drive, Kingfisher, OK 73750.

GI TAILOR KEEPS HIS HAND IN - MITTENS

By Howard Byrne - Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 45TH INF DIV 7 February 1945.

Those who mock at Army's classification system based on civilian skills and claim it all adds up to nothing, should heed the experience of PFC Sidney Noak, an infantryman in the 45th Division.

Back in civilian life Noak was a cloak-and-suiter in Brooklyn. It has been years since the interviewer made the notation on his records and he thought the Army had long forgotten. But one day when the French climate suddenly turned arctic, Noak was summoned by the division supply officer, LTC Walter Scholtzhauer of Douglas, AZ. Can you cut a pattern for mittens? the Colonel demanded. Certainly, said Noak. Good, said the Colonel. We're going to put you on special duty. There's a shortage of mittens in the division and we'll have to make our own out of salvaged blankets.

Noak sat down and patterned a mitten that was highly original. The sleeve came up to the elbow. Not so modern, he explained to the Colonel, but it keeps the snow out. Excellent, said the Colonel. We'll go into production.

MAJ O.W. Campbell of Oakland, CA rounded up 20 Alsatian women who had sewing machines and put them at Noak's disposal. Noak's current production is 200 pairs daily. The Colonel is tickled and so are the doughs who think their new-style mittens very distinctive. No other division has them. Noak is happy too, he says it's just like being back in Brooklyn.

(Submitted by Andrew G. Nelson, 6760 Kenwood Forest Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20915)

SEEKING INFORMATION

I am interested in obtaining documentation of eye-witness accounts of combat actions during the period 24-27 April 1945 in the vicinity of Donauworth and Neuburg, Germany. I know that the 179th Infantry Regiment participated in the liberation of this area and particularly the Second Battalion, 179th Infantry.

Area residents remember the names of Captain P.J. Harris, 160th FA Bn and Lieutenant Charles Reiman and Captain Ray Wantz of the 179th Infantry.

I am a retired university professor and a local historian and am seeking this information to support a local celebration of the end of World War II. The German Army did not retain any records pertaining to the latter stages of the war, therefore, you are my only source of information. The 45th Infantry Division crossed the Danube between the towns of Donauworth and Neuburg.

DR. L. HARTMANN, Am Neuen Berg 10, D-8859, Unterstall Germany.

I am seeking information concerning the death of my brother ANDREW McCUSKER, Company I, 179th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division. Andrew was killed-in-action on 1 October 1944 during the Southern France Campaign.

EUGENE J. McCUSKER, 1200 SW 130th Avenue, Hawthorne G-407, Pembroke Pines, FL 33027

(Editor's Note: On/or/about 1 October 1944 the 179th Infantry was engaged in the vicinity of Grandvillers, France.)

REUNION REPORTS

COMPANY B, 180TH INFANTRY (KOREA), held its first reunion in conjunction with the 45th Division Association reunion 21-23 August, 1992, at the Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Fifty-five members from across the nation attended this initial reunion. An association was formed, and all look forward to a bigger and better reunion next year. The longest distance traveled by a member was 2100 miles from Portland, Oregon.

Company B and Company G, 180th Infantry, co-hosted the 180th Infantry CP with the 180th Infantry Association.

BATTERY B, 145AAA BATTALION, Four former members of the Battery, John L. Wilson, Otis Padgett, Whitley Theriot, and Salvador Medina, met in 1986 and decided to contact all former members of the unit that served in Japan and Korea and plan a reunion. They succeeded in locating 89 members and thirty-three members attended the first reunion. They have met each year in conjunction with the 45th Division reunion. The average attendance each year has been 37, including wives. A newsletter is mailed twice each year to all known members of Battery B and other members of the 145AAA that attend.

HBB 45TH DIV ARTY (KOREA) held its first Reunion since the War on Thursday, August 20, 1992. They met at the Radisson Inn in conjunction with the 45th Inf. Div. Association 48th Annual Reunion. A total of 22 members and their wives/guests attended.

COMPANY B, 179TH INFANTRY (WW II), and COMPANY B, 279TH INFANTRY (KOREA), held a mini-reunion in Pawnee, Oklahoma, during August, 1992, immediately prior to the 45th Division Association reunion 21-23 August. Most attendees then traveled to Oklahoma City to participate in the Division reunion.

The Company B reunion had previously been attended by only WW II members. Future reunions will be conducted as 179/279 reunions.

Charles Johnson, Jr., Tulsa, OK, organized the first reunion several years ago and continues to be the major prime mover in the organization.

45TH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP, WW II, held their 12th reunion at the Ramada Inn, Seekonk, MA, 9-12 September, 1992. Total attendance was 54, including 23 Troopers, their wives and guests. One member was attending for the first time.

Emilio and Sandy Adamo planned and hosted the event. Events included bus and boat tours of Boston and Newport, RI. The 13th reunion will be held in Oklahoma City.

189TH FIELD ARTILLERY BAND (WW II) held a reunion 26-27 October, 1992, at the Hampton Inn on South Meridian in Oklahoma City. They have been conducting reunions on a regular basis in past years.

The 189th Field Artillery Band was a part of the 189th Field Artillery when it was a regiment. It was known as the best band of the nine in the 45th Division when it was a square division. Upon triangularization in February, 1942, the artillery regiment became a battalion and lost its band.

The prime mover of the organization of "old timers" is Dr. Milton Carey, who, as an outstanding bandsman, has served as President of the International Band Masters Association. He is the author of a recent monograph published by the 45th Infantry Division Museum. There were 15 members and spouses present at this most interesting reunion of a dedicated group of band people.

COMPANY M, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA), held a reunion 6-8 November, 1992, at the Radisson Inn, Oklahoma City. Fifty members, wives and guests were in attendance.

Much of the time was devoted to visiting, but a program was held Saturday

night which featured talks by Fred Daugherty, Omer Manley and Sun K Pang. Fred Daugherty was Commanding Officer of the 179th Infantry Regiment in Korea, and Omer Manley was a platoon leader in Company K, 179th Infantry, who was captured while his platoon was manning an outpost in March, 1952. He was a Prisoner-of-War for 18 months, and was the last one released from his prison camp because of his five escape attempts. Sun K Pang was an 11 year old North Korean orphan when he was "adopted" by Company M of the 7th Cavalry Regiment. When Company M, 179th Infantry, relieved the cavalry unit in December, 1951, Pang became a part of the unit and made many friends.

During a "Korea Revisit" trip to Korea in October, 1991, members and guests making the trip established a "Sun K Pang" scholarship at Seoul High School. The first recipient was Chung Sung Ho. The \$1,100 Pang Scholarship will make it possible for him to proceed with plans to attend Georgia Southern University.

REUNION NOTICES

45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION: 19-22 August 1993, The Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK.

189TH FA BATTALION: 23-25 April 1993, Embassy Suites Hotel, Tulsa, OK. Contact Art Corley, Coordinator, Route 1, Box 690, Big Cabin, OK 74332-9520, 918/782-9500.

645 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION: 23-25 April 1993. The Embassy Suites Hotel, Tulsa, OK. Contact T. J. Hunker, Coordinator, PO Box 127, Wheatland, OK 73097, 405/745-2433.

180TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION (WW II AND KOREA): Annual reunion will be held 7-9 May 1993, Holiday Inn, McAlester, OK. Contact Raul Trevino, 87791 Woodchase Drive #1215, San Antonio, TX 78240, 210/681-9134.

COMPANY G, 180TH INFANTRY (WW II AND KOREA): Annual reunion 7-9 May 1993. Holiday Inn, McAlester, OK, 7-9 May 1993. Contact Jim M. Phipps, P.O. Box 347, Clarcona, FL 32710, 407/295-6759 or 703/686-5088.

HBB 45TH DIV ARTY (KOREA): 19-22 August 1993, The Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Tommy Griggs, Rt 14, Box 251, Lake Charles, LA 70605-9111, 318/477-1937

BATTERY C, 189 FA BATTALION (KOREA), 19-22 August 1993 in conjunction with the 45th Division Association reunion at the Radisson Inn, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK

Inviting Batteries Headquarters, A, B and Service to join in the fun. Contact Robert L. Faken, 1801 NE Woodland Road, Ponca City, OK 74604 405/762-2826.

COMPANY A, 179TH INFANTRY (WORLD WAR II), 30 April - May 1993. For details contact Peter Gaidosh, 666 Chelsea Drive, Sanford, NC 27330 919/499-9315.

700TH ORDNANCE LM CO (WW II), Biannual reunion 9-11 April 1993 at New Orleans Hilton Riverside Hotel. Contact Fed Laughlin, Route 3, Box 474S, Crowley, LA 70526, 318/783-7269.

THE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS REQUESTS THAT UNITS/ ORGANIZATIONS SCHEDULING REUNIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 45TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION 19-22 AUGUST 1993 REFRAIN FROM SCHEDULING ACTIVITIES THAT CONFLICT WITH ASSOCIATION EVENTS.





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear President Wilson: I attended my first reunion this past August. I want to express my sincere appreciation to you and your staff for a job well done. I am a Korean veteran, and was with the 180th Infantry from April, 1952, to June, 1953. At the reunion I did not meet anyone that I knew back in 52-53, however, as I was a complete stranger, and the only one in attendance from Vermont, the fellows at the 180th Infantry CP were most gracious, and made me feel right at home.

There is a certain tie with the 45th Division that after 40 years still manages to be there. I am looking forward to being at the next reunion and meeting with friends I made at this reunion.

C.J. "MIKE" COATES, 7 P C Circle, Williston, VT 05495

I was a member of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, during World War II. I remained in the Army after World War II and served in various intelligence assignments in Europe and the Far East. After retirement from the Army in 1968, I worked for five years in Training and Facility of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Later I served nine years as the State of Maryland's consultant to local governments in personnel matters. For the past ten years I have been in personnel consulting on my own. My favorite hobby is traveling.

ERNST S. SELIG, P.O. Box 185, Hillsboro, Maryland 21641

Words seem so inadequate in trying to address a feeling of heartfelt gratitude very difficult to express. Please accept my sincere "thank you" for the Bill Mauldin print. It is a priceless treasure because of where, and the occasion, I received it. Recalling the moment over and over, I still can't realize I actually made it from our table to the stage, being in total shock, a lump in my throat the size of a watermelon, and legs of sponge.

How very kind of you to acknowledge our family. Needless to say, they were never expecting or prepared for such a welcome. We were truly elated in just being able to attend a "Thunderbird Reunion". Thrilled does not adequately describe our feelings. On Friday evening, receiving the print, and Saturday evening, the lovely floral piece, just compounded our excitement. I am profoundly grateful and sincerely appreciate such thoughtfulness.

From the time we arrived at the airport and saw the welcome banner, each day was a wonderful and emotional experience. Visiting the museum and being so impressed with collections, and the effort that is required to maintain such a facility, attending the memorial and dedication services, what an honor to be a part of such an outstanding group of people.

Please extend our heartfelt thank you to members of the Association, our new friends, the drivers, and each and everyone who welcomed and treated us so warmly. We returned home with pictures and memories to last a lifetime and hopes of returning next year.

CLAIRE M. RANAHAN, 6 Grouse Street, Boston, MA 02132

The 45th Division News just received brought back some memories regarding the life and career of John H. McCasland. He was a frequent visitor to the Division Headquarters G-2 section to which I was assigned.

When the division entered the Vosges Mountains in 1944, the speculation was that perhaps our path would lead us through my place of birth, Hochfelden, in Alsace. Not only did we go that way, but our headquarters was set up in my home town, where we remained for eight days.

My boss, COL Reichman, and MAJ McCasland, permitted Hugh Raupe from Granbury, TX (the Colonel's driver) and Allen Talbot, Fort Orange, FL, to drive me to the cemetery to visit my father's grave. When we reached the cemetery, there was still enemy activity in the area. Never can I forget the sight of these two buddies standing guard at the cemetery wall, with nothing but their carbines for protection, while I said my prayer at my father's grave site.

I was named "Honorary Mayor" of the town, and allowed to sleep in the home where I was born. One morning I saw a smiling Major McCasland coming down the street, and when he spied me he shouted, "Levy, didn't I tell you we would show them how to run this town?"

I am now 85 years old, and am happy to know that before we left town the name of a street in Hochfelden was changed to: "RUE DE LA 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION USA". I know this sign is still in place after 48 years.

RENE' C. LEVY, 734A Chatham Lane, Lakehurst, NJ 08733

I came to know Captain Robert C. Dean when I was in Company L, 180th Infantry, from April, 1942, until I departed for the Army Air Corps in May, 1943. Osteopaths were not recognized to practice medicine in the Army during World War II, so he ended up in the 45th Division as a Company Commander.

"Doc" had a great sense of humor, and delighted in dispensing medical "advice" to his friends, assuring them that his advice was better than the GI issue medical doctors. He gave me some advice that I follow to this very day.

After the war, he shared office space with our family dentist, and I saw him often. I am happy to see him honored by having a bridge named after him!

STAGG RENZ, 3500 Perdue, Dallas, TX 75225, 214/368-6084

I was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 179th Infantry, from Fort Devens, MA, until the end of the war. I am concerned that disabled veterans have been given the run-around for many, many years. This also applies to the "NOTCH ACT" affecting Social Security recipients born during a 10 year period ending in about 1925. This reduces my benefits by a sizeable amount

each month. I was forced to retire at age 52, but am still denied a pension by the Veterans Administration.

It seems that neither the democratic or republican bureaucrats in Washington worry too much about veterans, but I hope I live long enough to see some of these unjust "rules, regulations, and laws" repealed to give veterans a much deserved break.

EUGENE I. ROY, 238 Pearl Street Ext., Attleboro, MA 02703

I am writing concerning an article in the October edition of the 45th Division News relating to dedication of a memorial to Company D, 179th Infantry, where a Charles Goddard made comments.

I was assigned to Company D in May, 1942, and served as orderly and driver for Captain Goddard. Lt. John Hillman was the Executive Officer, 1st Sgt. Doug Thomas, Motor Pool NCO's Alvin "Bud" LeCrone and Carl McClure. It was a great outfit.

Captain Goddard was a gentleman in the finest meaning of the word, and I never served under a finer officer.

ALFRED A. ANIELLO, 1119 Matianuck Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095

I was advised of the existence of the 45th Division Association in November, 1992, by Lance Young, 4401 Woodland Park, Spencer, OK 73084. I have had no contact with any individual from the 45th Division since November, 1945. Please accept my application for a "Life" membership.

I was assigned to Company A, 179th Infantry, as a replacement in 1944. "Berlin Sally" broadcast to us that there were at least three 45th Divisions. She stated that "we have one in Berlin (prisoners), we have killed one, and there is another one out there destroying our soldiers. We would like to kill the 'Thunderbird' once and for all."

The 45th Division was a great division, and I feel honored to have had the privilege of being a dogface associated with it.

WRENOM M. HALL, M.D., 228 West Dixie, P.O. Box 38, Elizabethtown, KY 42702

Enclosed is my application for membership renewal. I am very proud to have served with the 45th Division and am honored to be called a "Thunderbird". I enjoy the newsletter very much. You fellows are doing a great job, keep it up.

EUGENE J. SICKLES, 45 School Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186

THUNDERBIRD DEATHS

DAVID N. BREEDING, Oklahoma City, OK, deceased 3 November, 1992, after an extended illness. David was mobilized with the division in September, 1940, and served within division artillery elements throughout the war, primarily as a member of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion. Awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster.

After retirement from the FHA, he spent the majority of his time working as a volunteer for the 45th Division Museum, which he loved.

He also worked with senior citizens at the Warr Acres Library helping prepare their income tax returns on a volunteer basis.

Survivors include his daughter and granddaughter, Gail and Jennifer Landon, of Oklahoma City.

CHARLES W. CLEVERDON, Lexington, MO, deceased 18 September, 1992. He received a bachelors degree in Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma and a Graduate Course in Banking at the University of Wisconsin in 1948.

Bill served throughout World War II as a member of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion, and later commanded that organization during the Korean War. He attended the Army War College and the Command and General Staff College.

Cleverdon served in many community activities including District Governor of Rotary, Sheltered Workshop and the Anderson House Foundation. He was also an active member of Christ Church Episcopal.

He was the principal author of a "Monograph" on the 158th Field Artillery on behalf of the 45th Division Museum.

His widow Muriel made a very generous contribution to the 45th Division Association Educational Fund in his memory.

RALPHE DUNN CHANDLER, OK, deceased 2 November, 1992. Ralph enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1935, and was called to active duty with the 45th Division in September, 1940. He was initially in Company B, 180th Infantry, and later transferred to Company G, 180th Infantry, at Camp Berkeley, TX. During the Sicilian Campaign he was the Executive Officer of Company G, and was later assigned as Company Commander.

Ralph was one of the original organizers of the Company G Association, and he attended every company reunion. Recently he was the Committee Chairman for the Company G Memorial Project which was dedicated during the August reunion.

Ralph was a proud Thunderbird. He once said, "I hope that some part of the training that I may have contributed was beneficial and useful and helped some of the best soldiers in the world, those men of Company G, in World War II. I am proud to have been a part of that unit."

(THUNDERBIRD DEATHS cont'd on back page)

MAULDIN CARTOON PRINTS AVAILABLE FROM GIFT SHOP

Eight of the original "Mauldin Cartoons" have been reproduced as numbered prints and are available for sale in the 45th Division Gift Shop. These prints have been reproduced on professional "Portrait Stock" paper. The cartoons have been printed in the original size, but on 11 X 16 inch paper to allow for framing. Cost of the prints are \$15.00 each or \$100.00 for a set of eight. The following can be used as an order form:

GIFT-SHOP ORDER FORM

	Quantity	Amount
UF-8 "Run it up th' mountain agin, joe" It ain't hot enough."	_____	_____
UF-18 "Another dang mouth to feed."	_____	_____
UF-57 "Hell of a way to waste time. Does it work?"	_____	_____
UF-78 "Damn fine road, men."	_____	_____
UF-132 "One more crack like that an' ya won't have yer job back after th' war."	_____	_____
UF-134 "Sure I got seniority. I got busted a week before you did."	_____	_____
UF-150 "This is the town my pappy told me about."	_____	_____
BM-102 "Remember that warm, soft mud last summer?"	_____	_____
_____ sets of 8 prints @ \$100.00 each		
Mailing charge: \$5.00 per mailing (maximum 1 set)		_____
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		_____

Mail completed form to: 45th Division Gift Shop
2145 NE 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111



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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(THUNDERBIRD DEATH cont'd from page 6)

Ralph is survived by his wife, Wanda, two daughters, two sons, sixteen grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

JOHN MICHEL FUENTES, Hyeres, France, deceased 7 October, 1992. John was a 14 year-old waif when he became a mascot of Company I, 179th Infantry, in 1943. He stayed with the company until being wounded near Epinal, France, and was treated in US Army Hospitals in France and the United States.

When hospital personnel in the US determined that John was not a GI, the US Government refused to pay for his return to France. George Fisher was the principal prime mover behind a fund raising effort to pay John's fare back to France, all donated by Thunderbirds.

John and his wife, Mauricette, attended the 45th Division reunions in 1989, 1990, and 1991.

WAYNE HARKNESS, Indianapolis, IN, deceased at age 80 years in April, 1992, served in the 179th Infantry throughout World War II. Awards and decorations included the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, EAME with six campaign stars and a bronze arrowhead, Good Conduct Ribbon and a Purple Heart for combat wounds received in Southern France.

His wife, Ina, said that he was very proud of the Thunderbirds. They had attended a reunion a few years ago, but had not been recently due to Wayne's ill health. She said the license plate he purchased at the 45th Division Museum was still on his car as a symbol of his pride in the 45th Division.

Survivors include his wife, Ina, one step-son, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

FREDERICK W. PAHLKE, Oklahoma City, OK, deceased 21 October, 1992. Fred was a member of the 120th Medical Battalion throughout World War II and served as a combat medic attached to the 157th Infantry Regiment. He was a Life Member of the Association, and was always present at annual reunions.

Survivors include his wife, Lucille, one son and one daughter.

PAUL W. STAPLES, McAlester, OK, deceased 20 November, 1992. Paul enlisted in the US Army 30 April, 1945, and was assigned to the South Pacific to include the occupation of Japan. He was released from active duty in 1946

45th Division News

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Danny G. Marler President

Wm. Rex Wilson Secretary/Editor

Louis A. Scott Associate Editor

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and joined the Army Reserve. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1949, and assigned to Company K, 180th Infantry Regiment.

He was mobilized with the 45th Division in September, 1950, and served in Japan and Korea as Executive Officer, Company L, 180th Infantry. After the Korean War he was assigned as Commander of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 180th Infantry, and was promoted to Captain 15 July, 1954. He served in various assignments from 1954 to 1959. On 1 August, 1959, he was assigned as Adjutant, 2nd Battle Group, 180th Infantry, and promoted to Major. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in February, 1968, Colonel in July, 1975, and Brigadier General in March, 1979. Paul retired in April, 1984, after 39 years of military service.

Funeral services were conducted in the National Guard Armory at McAlester, OK, with interment in Pleasant Valley Cemetery. Full military honors were provided by the 445th Military Police Company, Oklahoma ARNG.

Survivors include a daughter, Paula Murdaugh, and her husband, Ben, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

LIFE MEMBERS

SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Anthony A. Birkel	Charles Nicholas	Bernard "Gus" Shetenhelm
Perry L. Choate	Wreno M. Hall	Ray V. Simmons
Ted Victor Tucker		

NEW MEMBERS

SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

10-YEARS

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4-YEARS

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