

# 45th Division News

July 1989

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

## THUNDERBIRD



## LEGENDS

### GEORG ALBERT FISHER



Georg Albert Fisher, known to all in the 45th Infantry Division as "Mister Thunderbird," was born November 7, 1910 in Harris, Missouri. He moved at an early age with his family to Oklahoma City, where he graduated from Classen High School. He attended the University of Oklahoma and graduated from the law school in 1933. He practiced law in Oklahoma City from 1933 to 1940.

In October, 1933, Fisher enlisted in Hq. Co. 45th Division, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant in less than one year. He was inducted into Federal service with the 45th Division and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry on 30 July 1941 and rose to the rank of Captain in a little more than a year. Assigned to the 180th Infantry Regiment, Fisher was transferred to the Division SJA Section in June 1944 and assumed duties of Division SJA in April 1945.

Upon return to civilian life in 1946, Georg Fisher was one of the prime founders of the 45th Infantry Division Association in February of 1946. He was known far and wide as the "unofficial official" historian of the 45th Division. As such, in coordination with LTC Leo Bishop and MAJ Frank Glasgow, they compiled and edited "The Fighting Fort-Fifth," a history of the Division in World War II that has been accepted as the official history of the Division. He also wrote the history of the 180th Infantry Regiment.

Georg Fisher is credited with composing the famous phrase, "Whatever destiny may hold in store for our great country and however long that country's military history may continue, readers in the future will search long before finding a chapter more brilliant than that written by the quill that was dipped in the blood of the Thunderbirds," which has become synonymous with the outstanding record

of the 45th Division in WWII and Korea. The quote was written for the use of BG H.J.D. Meyer in his farewell message to the officers and men of the division upon inactivation at Camp Bowie, Texas on 30 November 1945.

In 1946, Fisher was appointed as Adjutant General of the 45th Division, ONG, and a short time later as G-1 of the division. He continued in that capacity upon reinduction of the division in 1950 until 1 March 1951 when he was transferred to the Military Government Section, where he commanded 500 Korean Security Police. Upon return to Oklahoma in 1952, he was appointed as Staff Judge Advocate of the 45th Division, a position he held until his retirement from the military in 1955.

In civilian life after WWII, he was hired by LTG Raymond McLain as attorney and Vice President of the American-First Title and Trust Company in Oklahoma City, a position he resumed after his return from Korea in August 1952. In 1962, he returned to private law practice as a member of Hanson, Fisher, Tumilty, Peterson and Tompkins. In 1970, he and his wife, Francis, moved to Atoka, where he established a private law practice. He retired from active practice of law in 1972.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with V Device (with one oak leaf cluster), the Army Commendation Medal, and the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Award. He served as President of the Oklahoma Democrats for Eisenhower in 1952; was an organizer of the Cowboy Hall of Fame; and a member of the Masonic Lodge.

Georg Fisher died at his home on Lake Tenkiller on 9 December 1984 and was buried with military honors in the Fort Gibson National Cemetery. Fisher had two daughters, Sue Cathryne Nicholson of Norman and Pam Wright of Cushing, and five grandchildren.

Georg Albert Fisher was known and loved by everyone in the 45th Division and military circles and his knowledge of the history of the 45th Division was without equal. His pleasant smile and unassuming demeanor is surely missed by one and all. He truly earned the title of "Mister Thunderbird."

## NATIVE OKLAHOMAN BANQUET SPEAKER



Major General Thomas J. P. Jones, a native of Marlow, Oklahoma will be the principal speaker this year at the Saturday night banquet during the 44th annual reunion of the 45th Division Association. General Jones is a dynamic, forceful speaker and is very knowledgeable of the needs and abilities of the Army National Guard and Reserve Forces.

MG Jones is currently Commanding General of the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. General Jones was born in Marlow in 1933. He enlisted in the Army as a private in 1952 and was commissioned a second lieutenant of Field Artillery from Officer Candidate School, where he was a Distinguished Military Graduate. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Cameron University and a Master of Science degree in Communication Science from Shippensburg State College. His military education includes completion of the Field Artillery Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

He has held a wide variety of important command and staff

positions, culminating in his current assignment. Other key assignments held recently include Director of Personnel, J-1, Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia; Deputy Director for Operations (J-3, Current Operations), Organization of the Joint Military Command Center, J-3, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Commander of the Southwest Region, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Commander of Division Artillery, 2d Infantry Division, Korea.

General Jones has served in many career building command and staff assignments. He served three combat tours in Vietnam where he was highly decorated.

Awards and decorations which General Jones has received include the Defense Superior Medal, The Legion of Merit (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star Medal with V Device (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Purple Heart (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), several Air Medals, the Army Commendation Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters). He is also authorized to wear the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Aircraft Crewman Badge.

Major General Jones and his wife, Rachel, have four children: Thomas, Sandra, Sheryl, and Shelly.



# ★ ★ ★ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ★ ★ ★

Just sent in my application for lifetime membership in 45th Infantry Division Association. Served with the 700th Combat Ordnance Light Maintenance Company from Fort Devens, Mass. 1942 to Munich, Germany 1945. After separation went into the Mold-Tool & Die trade. Still building molds at age 65 plus. Also am a minister of The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. A believer and a doer of His Word. I am co-hosting a 700th Ordnance reunion in Springfield, Ohio - June 2-4. Your associate editor can fill in the rest. He was with us on our journey through Europe. It is good to be aboard. **VIRGIL G. DEBERRY, SR.**, 531 McIntire Dr., Fairborn, OH 45324.

I was drafted on May 5, 1941 and had my basic training at Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells, Texas and was sent to the 45th Division at Camp Berkeley, Abilene, Texas on Sept. 1, 1941. I stayed with 45th throughout WWII. I had 130 points, 5 battle stars and was sent to the 103rd Division to be sent to the United States via Purple Project. I was the 45th Division Headquarters Co. "Barber." I stood for Bill Mauldin's first wedding in Patrick Henry, Va. I cut Gen Middleton, Gen Church, Gen W. Eagles, Gen McClain, Gen R. T. Frederick and Nuts McAllure's hair, who was in charge of the 103rd. Also in North Africa, Gen Bradley, Lawton Collins, and Gen Patton: Blood & Guts. I have pictures of Dachau Concentration Camp and others of World War II. I knew Col. Routh very well. **ARNOLD L. HORN**, 4938 Venus St., New Orleans, LA 70122.

I enlisted in Co. F 179th Infantry at Konawa (Capt. George Hargrave, CO); went to camp at Ft. Sill and was discharged in order to enlist in the USMC at New Orleans on May 10, 1934. Reentered Co. F (LT Robt. "Hoot" Clour, CO) in October 1939; went to one-week camp at Stringtown in December. Took Subcourse 10--and was commissioned 2d Lt May 10, 1940. After induction, I served with Co. K and Co. E; was CO of Co. E; promoted to Capt. at Ft. Devens and commanded Co. I, which was in my command in Sicily and later in Italy. I retired in May 1957 at the Presidio of San Francisco from the G-2 Section of 6th Army, having served as an instructor in Tactics at Ft. Benning and in the Constabulary School at Sontheofen, Germany, CO of Co. H 18 Inf, 1st Inf Div. and many other assignments including Bn CO of 3d Bn, 15 Inf, 3d Inf Div in Korea. Suffice it to say I never commanded a better unit than Co. I, 179th Inf. **FRANK V. GUILLIN**, 4364 Hermosa Way, San Diego, CA 92103.

I was a member of Co. M 158th Inf, Arizona National Guard from 17 December 1937 until they were inducted into Federal Service September 1940. I was discharged at Ft. Sill for ETS. In January 1942 I reenlisted in the Army and was assigned to the 45th Division at Camp Berkeley to Co. M 180th Infantry and served with that company until July 1945. In September 1949 I reenlisted in the Army and served in several fine units including the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Infantry Regiments. Although I have many fond memories of all the units I served with, there will always be special memories of the 180th Infantry Regiment. I retired from the Army in September 1967 with over 24 years service. **CLARENCE S. JONES**, Box 565, Starbuck, MN 56381

Late in 1944 I reported to Company C 157th Infantry as a replacement (agent) in the European Real Estate business. Had hardly time to appreciate my environment before notice was taken of my previous MOS, certified communications chief. Was immediately transferred to Hq. as the private property of the S-2 section, supposedly Intelligence, which didn't apply to me. Was issued a back pack and an SCR-300 Combat Radio, with spare battery. Within a week I was "muleing" that rig like a professional, continued to function in like manner until the day I strutted down the main drag of Munich, some strasse or other. For sure, I was privileged to know, and serve with, some of the best trained, most honorable, brave, and loyal soldiers that lived, or died respecting and serving their comrades and their country. The men and officers of the 157th were the personifications of the Regimental Emblem--EAGER FOR DUTY. **THOMAS P. GRANT**, Box 516, Bandera, TX 78003.

I was a member of Hq Co., 2nd Bn., 179th Infantry Regiment during Korea. I remember a two mile road that went from Hq Co to the line called "The Jersey Bounce." I had to drive that road almost every night with the mail, password and map overlays for the next day. This road was in the Mung-Dung-Ni Valley area. Does anyone remember these places? A few days before the war ended we were called up to a place called "Christmas Hill" to back up the 179th if the truce was not signed. They don't say anything about "Christmas Hill" or Mung-Dung-Ni Valley in the 45th Div History book I have. **WILLIAM R. TODD**, 177 Bromback St., Pittsfield, MA 01201.

I joined the 45th at Epinal, France October 1944. Was with Co. G until 7 February 1945. I spent next 3 months in many different Army hospitals; the last one in Salisbury, England. I am now retired for 5 years from Contel, telephone operations and spend winters in Florida. I have been trying for some time to get info about 45th. I am real pleased to become a member of the 45th Association. **BERNARD SHETENHELM**, Box 614, Trilby, FL 33593.

He was a "Born Texan" - an "Adopted Okie" who served in the Military of Oklahoma from it's infancy through it's development to the day he retired. His affiliation with Oklahoma Military and the 45th Infantry Division touched every aspect of those outstanding successes at every level of operations. They were not only his vocation but also his avocation.

He was the consummate manager, boss, father and friend. He had a computerized mind and a photographic memory. His standards and loyalties were well-known to all who knew him: God, Country, Family and Career, not necessarily in that order. His dedication and patriotism and love for the "Thunderbird" were cornerstones of his work and exemplified the statement--"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country" before it was spoken in the not too distant past.

He touched a lot of lives and we are better for it. He is missed...he cannot be replaced. His name was **ROSS HOLLAND ROUTH**. **NEAL DODDS**, 2405 S.E. 5th, Edmond, OK 73034

I am forwarding a membership application for MAJ Houston B Southern who served with the 180th Infantry Regiment in Korea. He continued to serve as a member of the 45th Division upon release from active duty. He served in several units and organizations including the 179th Infantry Regiment. His favorite service was with Army Aviation and his last unit of assignment was the 45th Division Aviation Company.

Southern is an attorney in private practice in the FM 1960 area of Houston, TX. He and several former members of the 45th are supporting formation of a Greater Houston Area Chapter of the 45th Division Association. **TED L. MALOY**, 10227 Metronome, Houston, TX 77043.

I am enclosing an application for renewal of my membership. I have never attended a reunion, but am planning on making the trip this year.

I was a member of the 179th Infantry in World War II. I joined the 45th Division at Naples, Italy, and served as Liaison Officer and Platoon Leader in Company B, 179th Infantry, Executive Officer and Commander of Company C, 179th Infantry. After hospitalization which included the time of the Southern France landing, I rejoined the regiment and was assigned as Commander of Company D.

I was assigned to the 103rd Division at the conclusion of the war and subsequently returned to the United States as a member of that division. **WILLIAM LANDGREN**, 1017 Meadow Lane, Willmar, MN 56201-3050.

I completed basic training at Fort Sill, OK in December 1941 and was assigned to the 45th Division at Camp Berkeley, Texas. I was a member of the 157th Infantry until wounded in action at the Anzio

Continued on next page



## ★NEW MEMBERS★ SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

### 10 Year

Robert B. Cole  
Arnold L. Horn  
Norman E. Maca  
Arthur D. Moore  
Robert E. Olson  
Orville T. Panosh  
Robert L. Wilson Sr

Maurice R. Wainwright  
Robert S. Whipple  
Herbert L. Whorlow  
August H. Zellmer

### 1 Year

Edward L. Balmain  
James W. Barnes  
Mark B. Battershell  
James E. Bickley  
Theophile Blanchard  
Michael L. Britton  
Charles H. Brothers  
William G. Chandler  
Ray S. Clark  
F.D. Elmore  
William R. Farris  
John D. George  
Johnnie D. Grimes  
Cecil F. Hall  
Robert D. Harper  
William B. Hight  
Arthur A. Jones  
Dean L. Jones  
Scott B. Jordan  
Kenneth W. Lee  
Grady F. Lilly

James A. Manis  
William C. Martin Jr  
Thomas Mescal  
Tomie D. Miller  
Frank Nicolazzo  
Marvin R. Ormiston  
Jack O.B. Parker  
Angus J. Pauley  
John F. Pitchlynn Jr  
Joel M. Potts  
Kevin A. Ramsey  
James H. Reed  
Warren F. Reid  
Victor L. Richard  
Matthew R. Scott  
Clarence M. Self  
Houston B. Southern  
Kevin D. Staring  
Timothy L. Steely  
Robert A. Steinman  
Dennis W. Stine  
Bob A. Suiter  
Otis C. Taylor  
Martin B. Tucker  
Gary D. Walker  
Bobby L. Yandell Jr

### 4 Year

Johnny W. Bryan  
Domenic P. Cuccinello  
Philip A. Dickey  
Robert C. Errek  
John T. Greiner Jr  
Robert R. Hamilton  
Walter Horton  
Kenneth Jones  
Leo A. Lacroix  
Howell B. Lacy  
Lloyd Lawrence  
Louis Minicucci  
Walter J. Pydo  
Glenn E. Schultz  
Michael N. Semenoick  
Berton A. Stotler  
Frank J. Vawter

## ★LIFE MEMBERS★ SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Virgil G. Deberry Sr Theodore C. Heefner Jr George S. Johnson

### TAPS

★ George Abbott	★ Stanley Folmer	★ Ludger (Pop) Schilling
★ Jack Bishop	★ Almond Fisher	★ Lester G. Schmidt
★ Leo E. Bishop	★ E. Moses Frye	★ John Sommers
★ Thomas A. Brooks	★ Peter J. Harris	★ Donald Ray Spencer
★ Arnold E. Caldwell	★ Charles J. Hinkle	★ Roy P. Stewart
★ Raymond L. Coltrane	★ Richard G. Long	★ Robert M. Urmston
★ William A. Crall	★ Blake H. Rhodes	★ Kenneth Wood

## LOST ADDRESSES

NAME	CITY/STATE	DUES EXPIRE
Bevilacqua, Alfred	Statin Island, NY	1992
Bresnahan, William T	St. Augustine, FL	LIFE
Cohen, Ezra	Brooklyn, NY	1989
Gilbert, MD	Reno, NV	LIFE
Gillen, Teresa A	Okla. City, OK	1988
Harold, Steve C	Norman, OK	1989
Haynes, Burlint	Plattsburgh, NY	1988
Johnson, Albert G	Marlborough, CT	1992
Mills, Theodore A	Orangeburg, SC	1988
Mosby, David B	Muskogee, OK	LIFE
Pattison, William E	Springfield, MO	1990
Sgambati, Charley	SO PK, NY	1991
Tanner, Terry W	Muskogee, OK	1990
Blosch, Carol J	Perry, OK	1988
Gerber, Charles M	Ft. Worth, TX	1989
Trusley, James A	Dallas, TX	1989
Miller, David G	Ada, OK	1988
Hope, Mark W	Ft. Smith, AR	1988
Escobido, Hilarion	Las Vegas, NV	1990
Taylor, Jimmie W	Park Hill, OK	1989
Mills, A Leigh	Spring Hill, FL	1988
Smith, Miles C	Norman, OK	1989
Nation, Curtis	Tahlequah, OK	1988
Rainey, Weldon	Altus, OK	1991
Lauderdale, Terry	Dallas, TX	1988
Jones, Welsey	Edmond, OK	1988
Streight, Ricky W	Seminole, OK	1989
Vandevelde, Keith D	Norman, OK	1989
Foster, Earnest P	Lawton, OK	1989

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## 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.

Dale E. Carney	President
Wm. Rex Wilson	Secretary/Editor
Louis A. Scott	Associate 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. **DO NOT SEND ITEMS THAT MUST BE RETURNED!**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



## 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.)

cut here





Continued from previous page

beachhead and subsequently returned to the United States due to the severity of my wounds.

I am proud to have been a member of this great division and look forward to seeing some of my old friends. **JOHNNY BRYAN**, Box 643, Wildsville, LA 71377.

As an active member of the New York VFW and the Korean War Vets Association, I plan a trip back to Korea this fall. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who was in the 700th Ordnance Bn. in late 1952 to 1954. I could use any photos, maps, etc., that would pinpoint the location of our unit during these years. I would return all material. How about a reunion, fellows? Even a postcard to touch base from time to time. **FRANK NICOLAZZO**, 28 Falmouth St., Rochester, NY 14615. (716) 865-0145.

A couple of years ago, my wife and I were passing through Oklahoma City on a vacation and saw a sign "45th Division Museum." I was astonished as I didn't know such a place existed. On our way back we made a special effort to visit the museum. It brought back many memories from the past when I was fighting with them. A super museum, I must say. Keep up the good work.

I joined 3rd Platoon, Co. C 180th Inf in March of 1945 and fought with them from Worms to Konigshofen, Bamberg and was shot through the neck as we approached Nuremberg. I spent several weeks in the General Hospital at Nancy, France. I went back to my same outfit and then the war ended. I would love to see some of my old buddies again. **HARLAN G. KNOEPFEL**, 4312 Sherwood Road, Grand Island, NE 68801.

The enclosed application is for a "LIFE" membership in the 45th Division Association to be presented to my father, Theodore C. Heefner, as a birthday present.

He was a twenty-one year old platoon sergeant during the Korean War and was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor with one Oak Leaf Cluster and a presidential citation. After being released from duty he continued to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and the United States Army Reserve.

I am the oldest daughter and the third generation of Heefner's to pursue a military career. **DEBORAH L. HEEFNER**, 522 Quartermaster Road, Jonestown, PA 17038.

## LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

I would like to hear from any former members of B Battery, 189th Field Artillery who were with that unit during 1952 and 1953 in Korea. **George S. Johnson**, Rt 5, Box 203, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of **Albert Vernon Butler** of Statesboro, Georgia who was in 700th Ordnance Co during WWII, contact Virgil G. DeBerry, Sr., 531 McIntire Dr., Fairborn, OH 45324. (513) 878-1395.

## 45th Infantry Division Reunion 24 - 26 August 1989

### ADMIRAL CROWE ASSISTANT HONORED BY SCABBARD AND BLADE

COL F William Smullen III, special assistant to Admiral Crowe, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was presented with the Distinguished Service Award of the National Society of Scabbard and Blade for his contributions to the defense of the country. The award was presented on 21 April 1989 at the 45th Division Museum by COL Robert W Vincent, Vice Chairman of the National Executive Committee, Brigadier of Scabbard and Blade.

## OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE HONORS 45th DIVISION AND JACK MONTGOMERY

The 41st Oklahoma Legislature passed Engrossed Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 99 proclaiming the second Tuesday of every April beginning in 1989 as 45th Infantry Division Appreciation Day in the State of Oklahoma.



Presentation of the portrait of Jack Montgomery, Medal of Honor recipient, to the Oklahoma State Senate during 45th Infantry Division Appreciation Day on 11 April 1989. The portrait of Montgomery will be on display in the State Capitol Rotunda for one year, then will be on permanent display at the 45th Division Museum. Shown unveiling and presenting the portrait to the State Senate in the Senate Chambers are LTC Dale Carney, on left, President of the 45th Division Association and Edison A. Reber, Chairman of the Board, 45th Division Museum. Senator John Dahl is presiding.

## MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

The 45th Division Museum Gift Shop is open for business during the museum hours of operation. Thunderbirds who have not visited the museum may be unaware that the gift shop exists.

The following list depicts some of the items available for sale:

Items embossed with the "thunderbird": charms, charm necklace, stick pin, tie tac, belt buckle, money clip, lapel pin, tie clasp, paperweight (marble) and key ring.

Ceramic ash trays and coffee mugs, "T" shirts, caps, cloth thunderbirds (regulation and miniature), Willie and Joe post cards, auto tags, bumper stickers and decals.

Miscellaneous prints, Division history books, Regimental history books, "Bill Mauldin's Army" and "Up Front" by Bill Mauldin.

Items are available by direct purchase or mail order from the gift shop. "Price List/Mail Order Forms" are available upon request.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP BESTOWED ON FRENCH LIAISON OFFICER

When the 45th Division made their amphibious assault landing on the beaches of Southern France in August of 1944, the French Government assigned a Marine NCO to the 180th Infantry Regiment to guide them onto the right beach in their assigned sector.

Emile Bresc was the French NCO and Sergeant Arthur Rodgers of Hq Co., 1st Bn, 180th Infantry was assigned as his interpreter. Bresc briefed the staff before landing regarding the terrain and Rodgers feels that Bresc's wise guidance onto the right beaches helped account for the light casualties sustained by the 180th upon landing.

Upon the request of Arthur Rodgers, the 45th Infantry Division Association has bestowed a life membership in the Association upon Bresc for his outstanding contribution to the successful assault landings in Southern France.

Emile Bresc is now 85 years old and is very proud of the part he played in assisting the American Army. He lives at 113 Rue Raoul Brulat, 83300 Draguignan, France. The address of Arthur Rodgers is 39 Nova Lane, Novato, CA 94947.



## \*\*\* THUNDERBIRD DEATHS \*\*\*

**ALMONDE FISHER**, Mentor, Ohio. He was a LIFE member of the 45th Division Association.

Fisher was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for combat actions during World War II while a member of the 157th Infantry.

The following are excerpts from his Citation for award of the Medal of Honor:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on the night of 12-13 September 1944 near Grammont, France. In the darkness of early morning, 2d Lt Fisher was leading a platoon of Company E, 157th Infantry, to the attack of a strongly defended hill position. At 2:30 AM the forward elements were brought under enemy machinegun fire from a distance of not more than 20 yards. Working his way alone to within 20 feet of the gun emplacement, he opened fire with his carbine and killed the entire guncrew. Within the next three hours Lt Fisher and his platoon destroyed or neutralized four additional machinegun positions. With ammunition low and daybreak near, he ordered his men to dig in and hold the ground already won. Under constant fire from both flanks, he moved among his men directing the preparations for the defense. Shortly after the ammunition supply was replenished, the Germans launched a last determined effort against the depleted group. Attacked by superior numbers from the front, right, and left flank, and even from the rear, the platoon drove back the enemy at every point. Wounded in both feet by close-range machine pistol fire early in the battle Lt Fisher refused medical attention until the action had subsided. His extraordinary heroism, magnificent valor and aggressive determination in the face of pointblank enemy fire is an inspiration to his organization and reflects the finest traditions of the United States Armed Forces.

**ROY P STEWARD**, Oklahoma City, OK, died 7 May 1989 after an extended illness. He was 83. Roy was a charter member of Battery D, 158th Field Artillery, and served in the 45th Division in World War II. He retired with the rank of Colonel in 1965.

He was born in Tennessee, but spent most of his life in Oklahoma. His journalism career spanned more than 60 years, and earlier this year he was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

Roy was staff member of the Oklahoman, assistant Sunday editor, general assignment reporter, city editor, Washington correspondent, roving feature writer, editorial writer as well as author of "Country Boy".

His affiliation with organizations included National Press Club, Oklahoma City Gridiron Club, Western History Association, Oklahoma Historical Society, National Cowboy Hall of Fame and State Review Committee for Preservation of National Historical Sites. He was a trustee of the Oklahoma Livestock Association.

Stewart was author of numerous magazine articles and books. He edited and designed "Thunderbird, a History of the 45th Division".

**EDWARD MOSES FRYE**, Stillwater, OK, died 4 April 1989 at the age of 69 years. Full military honors were conducted at his burial 7 April 1989 in Stillwater.

Moses served in the Western Pacific in World War II and in the Korean War as a member of the 45th Division. Awards and decorations include the Purple Heart.

He served as legal counsel to the Oklahoma State University and A&M Colleges' Regents. He was an associate professor of administrative services and business education in the College of Business Administration and Higher Education at OSU.

He was one-half Cherokee, and was named deputy principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma in 1975.

A Sallisaw, OK native, Frye retired in 1971 as a Brigadier General after 30 years of active reserve and Oklahoma National Guard service.

**DONALD RAY SPENCER**, Oklahoma City, OK. Died 2 May 1989. Services were held in Oklahoma City and Blair, Oklahoma. Interment at Blair cemetery with full military honors.

Don joined the 45th Infantry Division in 1964 and served in various assignments until 1978 when he was transferred to Headquarters Detachment Oklahoma Army National Guard and served as Chief Administrative NCO. He was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer in 1979.

He was employed by the Oklahoma Military Department in 1971 and served in several assignments until 1983 when he was assigned as Procurement Specialist where he served with distinction until the time of his death.

Don was a LIFE member of the association.

**BLAKE H RHODES**, Asheville, North Carolina. Died 11 February 1989 of a heart attack.

Blake was a member of Company G, 180th Infantry during combat in World War II. He participated in all campaigns from Naples-Foggia to Ardennes-Alsace. Awards and decorations included the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Bronze Star.

His widow Dorothy stated that Blake was proud to have served with the 45th Division.

**CHARLES JARVIS HINKLE**, Fredericksburg, Virginia. Died 10 February 1989 as the result of complications from cancer.

Charles was a member of Headquarters Company, 180th Infantry during World War II. He was a radio operator, and continued his interest in this field until his death. He belonged to several radio clubs, including the Antique Wireless Association and the Antique Radio Club of America.

Awards and decorations include the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

**PETER J HARRIS**, Mineral Wells, Texas. Killed in an automobile accident in Chickasha, Oklahoma 4 April 1989.

He was a member of 160th Field Artillery in World War II. Harris was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C. with full military honors.

**WILLIAM A CRALL**, Anadarko, OK, died 1 February 1989. He was a World War II member of the 179th Infantry and a member of the Central Oklahoma Chapter of Ex-Prisoners of War.

Bill's favorite hobby was collecting books and magazines for donation to the Veterans Administration hospital, also, Bill and his wife Evelyn fabricated items for the aid and comfort of hospitalized veterans.

Bill was captured by the Germans at Anzio and remained a prisoner of war until 12 April 1945. Awards and decorations included the Bronze Star. Evelyn said that he was bayoneted while a POW, but was denied a Purple Heart, because he was not injured in combat.

**RICHARD G LONG**, Indianapolis, IN died January 1989. He was a World War II member of the 158 Field Artillery.

Richard's widow Betty said he was very proud of his service with the 45th and enjoyed seeing old buddies at the annual reunion two years ago.

He was employed by Western Electric Company for 32 years before retiring in 1982. He was immediate past chairman of the Rehabilitation Services Commission of the Indiana Department of Human Services.



# REUNION NOTICES

Company A 120th Medical Regiment, 21-23 July 1989 at Cushing, OK. Contact Mrs. Fred Cannon, 702 E. Main, Cushing, OK 74023. (918) 225-1034.

Company D 179th Infantry Association, 11-12 August 1989 at Holiday Inn, Norman, OK. Contact Ray Wall, 8508 S. Ross, OKC, OK 73159 or John T. Edge, 8 Sandra Dr., Bristol, RI 02809.

Medical Det, 120th Engineer Bn. (Korea) will have first reunion on 6 October 1989 at the Best Western/Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN. Contact Charles R. Rodd, 26245 E. Baseline, #29, Highland, CA 92346. (714) 864-3724.

45th Cav Recon Troop, 9-12 November 1989 in Orlando, FL. Contact Al Desrosiers, 8602 Veriden Dr., Orlando, FL 32810. Phone number unknown.

Reunion of the Anti-Tank Co., 180th Inf. Regt at Columbus, OH on 8-10 September 1989. Contact Paul Bailey, 8523 Scipio Rd, Nunda, NY 14517. (716) 468-2695.

**45th Infantry Division Reunion 24-26 Aug. 1989  
Hilton Inn West - Oklahoma City ★ Reunion packets will  
be distributed with 45th Division News July 1989.**

## REUNION REPORTS

Co. G 180th Infantry held its annual reunion in conjunction with the 180th Infantry Regiment Association on May 5-7, 1989 at the Holiday Inn in McAlester, Oklahoma. Chairman was Jim Phipps, assisted by his wife, Helen.

Thirty four members and guests attended. Special guests were Peter Pent, his wife Dara and their children and Bill DeMoss, his wife Susan and daughter. Special visitors were Jack Montgomery, MOH, and his wife Joyce, August Zellmer, Herbert Lockett, Edgar Simpson, Mrs. Wanda Jordan and Mrs. Audra Mahaffey, widows of former Thunderbirds. Co. G Medal of Honor recipient William J. Johnston was not able to attend due to illness.

The next reunion of Co. G 180th Infantry is scheduled for May 4-6, 1990. For further information contact Jim Phipps, PO Box 347, Clarcona, FL 32710. (407) 295-6759.

The 9th Biennial Reunion of H&S Co, 120th Engineer Bn (Korea) was held at "Gardener's Retreat" near Shiner, Texas on 16 & 17 July 1988. Bob and Agnes Pustka and their family were the hosts. Sixteen members and fifteen guests attended. A tour of the Shiner Brewery and its company store, plus a tour of the Janek Nursery. Fine meals were prepared and served by the Pustkas. The time and location for the next reunion has not been determined. Woody Harris, 26 Preston Circle, Stillwater, OK 74075. (405) 372-4098.

The 700th Ordnance LM Co. (WWII) held its biannual reunion on June 2-3, 1989 at the Holiday Inn in Springfield, Ohio. It was cohosted by Frank and Margie Vawter and Virgil and Oattie DeBerry, Sr.

Eleven states were represented by the sixteen members and their wives plus five single members who attended. A cookout was held Friday evening at the home of Frank and Margie Vawter. On Saturday the members were given a guided tour of the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton with emphasis on planes of the World War II era. Saturday afternoon an electrical storm knocked out the lights at the hotel, so that evening a true candlelight banquet was held in the Holiday Inn. Sunday morning a brunch was held for the members at the Vawter's.

The next reunion will be held in 1991 at Lawton, Oklahoma, hosted by Louis Scott.

## REUNION PLANNING ON SCHEDULE

General Reunion Chairman Frank McGilbra and his committees are busy finalizing plans for the "FORTY FOURTH" annual reunion 24-26 August 1989, at the Hilton Inn West, I-40 and Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK.

The "Hospitality Room" will be open at noon Thursday 24 August.

Several unit/organization reunions are scheduled in conjunction with the division reunion. The main activities of these satellite reunions are conducted on Thursday night, therefore, there are no scheduled activities of the Division reunion until Friday.

Friday activities include registration, evening buffet and bingo. The Gazebo will be open for visiting and rehashing and embellishing war stories. Organizational Command Posts will be open at noon.

Saturday activities will include a memorial service, followed by the business meeting, ladies luncheon, museum visitation, command post visits and the annual banquet and dance.

Forms for reunion registration, hotel reservations, transportation requirements, etc., will be mailed on or about 1 July in a packet which will also include the July edition of the 45th Division News.

## AMERICAN AIRLINES DISCOUNT AIRFARE

An agreement has been signed with American Airlines for "Meeting Saver Fare" discount tickets for air travel incident to attendance at the 44th Annual Reunion of the 45th Infantry Division Association 24-26 August 1989.

The following provisions apply to this agreement:

BASIS	RULES/RESTRICTIONS
Cost/basic agreement	40% discount off full daycoach roundtrip fare
Valid to/from	Oklahoma City from various points in the contiguous 48 states, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands
Booking class of service	"M" based on availability
Advance purchase required	7 days prior to departure
Stopovers	Not allowed
Valid dates of travel	22-29 August 1989
Service fee	\$30.00 when applying for a refund (full or partial) once tickets are issued
Additional discounts	5% if available from your departure city and all tariff requirements are met

**The "Meeting Saver Fare" offer is available only through the number listed below for American Airlines Meeting Services Desk:**

Call toll free 1-800-433-1790 ask for Star Number S2689QY. The meeting services desk is manned from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight Central Standard Time, seven days a week.

## LADY THUNDERBIRD REUNION ACTIVITIES

We're looking forward to your visit with us in August. We have some great things planned for you!

On Friday we will have the buses available to take you around to visit interesting places in our city, such as:

- (1) Crystal Bridge
- (2) The Harn Homestead
- (3) The Overholster Mansion
- (4) The Choctaw Trading Post
- (5) Penn Square Shopping Mall

We will have a sign-up table set up in the hotel for you to sign up for these trips. (The number of sign-ups will determine where we will go.) We will try to visit as many of the places as time will allow.

On Saturday, August 26th, we will be going to Guthrie, Oklahoma. We will be going up on the bus, for those who would like to attend the opening ceremony of the men's meeting the buses will leave from the hotel at 10:00 a.m. For the ladies who would like to go earlier and shop, the buses will load at 8:15 a.m. and leave at 8:30 a.m.

Guthrie is the center for our Centennial this year. They have wonderful shopping and the people are very anxious for us to come and visit them. You will need to dress cool and wear comfortable shoes for the day. We are having our luncheon in the Historical Armory and the ladies of Guthrie are putting on a style show of styles of 1889, and we'll have other entertainment.

We will be looking for you in August.

(Lois Batey, Chairperson, Ladies Activities)