

45th Division News

July, 1991

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

THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS



JOHN EMBRY

John Embry was born July 13, 1905 on a farm on the Deep Fork River, Northeast of Sparks, Oklahoma, the eldest child of James A. and Ivy Embry. He completed high school in Chandler, Oklahoma. He attended Oklahoma A&M College and Oklahoma University, from where he graduated in 1927 with an LLB degree.

Embry entered law practice with his father in Chandler. He was County Attorney of Lincoln County from 1929 to 1933. He then returned to practice with his father.

John Embry enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1295; was appointed as a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery in 1929; First Lieutenant in 1931; and Captain in 1939. He commanded Battery C, 160th FA when the 45th Division was called into Active Service in September 1940. He later commanded Headquarters Battery, 160 FA. He was promoted to Major in February 1941; held assignments as S3 and XO of 160th FA and became Commanding Officer 160th FA in November 1943 and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Embry was promoted to Colonel in January 1946 and assigned as Executive Officer 45th Division Artillery upon the division's reorganization in 1946.

Colonel Embry returned to the Regular Army in 1947 as a Captain, FA; was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in July 1948 and to Colonel in 1950. During this time he was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff, Department of the Army, in the Office of Personnel and Administration; in the Management Division; and Chief, Organization Branch. He was assigned to U.S. Army, Europe in 1952 as Deputy comptroller. He served as Comptroller of Comm Zone, U.S. Army, Europe in 1953. In 1955 he was assigned to Fourth U.S. Army as a Special Projects Officer in the Comptroller Section; later as Comptroller in 1959. Colonel John Embry retired from the Army in August 1960 and returned to the practice of law in Oklahoma.

Among the many decorations awarded Colonel Embry are the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star Medal. He served in combat with the 45th Infantry Division throughout their service in World War II.

He was affiliated with Delta Upsilon fraternity; Phi Alpha Delta fraternity; Order of the Coif; Oklahoma Bar Association; Federal Bar Association; Armed Forces Management Association; Masonic Lodge; National Sojourners. He received the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Cross and commissioned as a Brigadier General, Oklahoma National Guard, in 1987.

John Embry died on June 18, 1988, one month short of being 83 years old. He is survived by his wife, Martha Jeanette Verser Embry. John Embry was buried with military honors at Chandler, Oklahoma.

THUNDERBIRD VETERAN BANQUET SPEAKER



Brigadier General Felix L. Sparks a Thunderbird veteran of World War II will be the speaker this year at the Saturday night banquet during the 46th annual reunion.

Sparks was born in San Antonio, Texas in August 1917. He and Mary Frances Blair were married in Tucson, Arizona in 1941. They have four children, two sons and two daughters.

His family moved to Arizona in 1921 and he attended grade school and high school in Miami, Arizona, a copper mining town. He was editor of the high school newspaper. He

graduated from high school during the depression years. Unable to find a job, he joined the Army and was assigned to Hawaii. After his Army tour, he entered the University of Arizona where he completed his pre-legal education and one semester of law school prior to being recalled to military service. He re-entered the Army as a Second Lieutenant in February 1941 and was assigned to the 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division.

General Sparks served with the division throughout World War II. He was a Rifle Company Commander during the first year of combat and commanded Third Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment during the last year of combat. He was commander of the troops which liberated the infamous German concentration camp at Dachau.

He assisted in reorganizing the Colorado National Guard after World War II, served on active duty during the Berlin Crisis as an Artillery Group Commander. He was later promoted to Brigadier General in command of the 157th Regimental Combat Team in the Colorado National Guard.

Sparks graduated with an LLB Degree at the University of Colorado. He practiced law with a specialty of water conservation, served as a State District Attorney and a Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. He also served as Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Awards and decorations include Silver Star w/Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart w/Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge and the French Croix de Guerre.

He retired in 1979, resides in Denver, Colorado, and is the guiding force that has caused the 157th Infantry Regiment Association to be outstanding among post-World War II military associations.

COMBAT CHRONICLES 179TH INFANTRY REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

OPERATION HUSKY the invasion of Sicily. The 179th Infantry Regimental Combat Team (RCT) included the 160th Field Artillery Battalion, Company B 120th Engineers, medical personnel from the 120th Medical Battalion, and attached nondivisional units.

The assault plan for the 179th RCT was for it to land in the center of the division sector with two battalions abreast, capture SCOGLITTI and VITTORIA, capture COMISO AIRFIELD with the assistance of the 157th RCT on the right, and advance to the corps objective.

After reducing and mopping-up their assigned part of the beach, the 1st Battalion continued along the beach to the SOUTHEAST and attacked and captured SCOGLITTI by a flanking movement from the NORTH. The battalion then turned NORTH where it encountered strong enemy fire from machine guns and artillery.

The 3rd Battalion, meanwhile, marched directly to VITTORIA, capturing it during the afternoon after overcoming resistance of snipers and some self propelled guns on the outskirts of the city. The bulk of the RCT went into position NORTH of the city. The following morning, 11 July, German troops were encountered reinforcing the Italians.

The RCT began its advance on COMISO AIRFIELD, which was captured at about 1625 hours with the assistance of one battalion of the 157th.

Approximately 20 German prisoners were taken and about the same number killed; numerous Italian prisoners were also taken. The capture of COMISO AIRFIELD netted a large number of airplanes, supplies of airplane parts, repair equipment, and much other valuable equipment.

The 179th RCT then moved NORTH from COMISO AIRFIELD and across the ACATE RIVER. On 12 July they ran into defensive positions held by an estimated three companies of Germans supported by a company of Mk VI tanks.

On 13 July the RCT continued to the NORTH. The infantry was heavily

(cont'd on page 2)

counterattacked SOUTHEAST of CALTAGIRONE by 30 enemy tanks that included 10 Mk VIs. During this attack, the enemy used a battalion concentration of artillery for the first time against the 45th Infantry Division. The attack was successfully repulsed. By noon of 14 July the RCT was in position just SOUTH of the VIZZINI-CALTAGIRONE Road.

During the night of 16-17 July, the 179th RCT moved via GELA to assembly areas WEST and SOUTHWEST of MAZZARINO. On 18 July the RCT closed in their assembly area at CALTANISSETTA. On 20 July, the 179th moved through VALLEDOLMO and was assembled at CALTAVUTURO by the morning of 22 July.

The 179th RCT then turned NORTHWEST and marched on CALLESANO, where contact was once more made with the Germans, determined to be elements of the 15th Panzer Division and the Italian 26th Division. The 179th captured COLLESANO on 23 July and then advanced eastward toward CASTELBUONO, which they captured on the 24th. They remained in this area gathering animal transportation in order to move cross-country the next day.

On 26 July the regiment started its advance on S. Mauro, which they captured on the 27th against slight opposition, mainly because they took the enemy by surprise by moving cross-country using animal transportation.

On 27 July the regiment began a very difficult march cross-country with no sign of a road for CASTEL DI LUCIO. They were then ordered to move on MISTRETTA and thence northward toward S. STEFANO to pinch out German elements opposing the 157th Infantry. By means of locally obtained mules, they moved across very difficult country and entered MISTRETTA on 29 July. They then proceeded NORTH on Highway 117 to find all bridges blown and considerable numbers of mines, which slowed their progress.

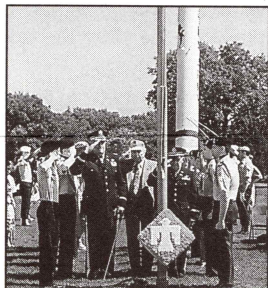
The entire movement of this regiment from the time it left CASTELBUONO until it reached MISTRETTA was made practically cross-country over extremely difficult terrain, utilizing locally requisitioned mules to transport supplies and equipment.

On 30 July the 45th Infantry Division was relieved by the 3rd Infantry Division. The 45th went into rest areas in the vicinity of TERMINI IMMERSE and CEFALU and in Seventh US Army reserve.

During the Sicilian Campaign, the 179th RCT and other combat elements of the 45th Infantry Division encountered the German Herman Goering Division, which was well officered and contained well trained enlisted men. This division fought well and savagely, but were no match for the Thunderbirds. German prisoners stated that they had been told by their leaders that they would be castrated if captured by the Americans; when they found that this was not true they were exhilarated and talked freely.

MUSEUM HOSTS MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Governor of Oklahoma David Walters was a "Special Guest" speaker of the annual Memorial Day ceremony conducted at the 45th Infantry Division Museum. Following Governor Walter's presentation an appropriate address was made by Major General Tom Alsip The Adjutant General of Oklahoma. Don Livesay of the Oklahoma Military Department served as Master of Ceremonies.



The event also marked the opening of a new special exhibit at the museum honoring Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Childers, a Creek Indian who, as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 45th Infantry Division in Italy during World War II, received the Medal of Honor, our country's highest award for gallantry in combat.

The ceremony featured a massing of colors by color guards representing military, veteran and youth organizations. A gun salute was accomplished by Gene Church and crew in military uniforms of 19th century Artillery men, firing a Hotchkiss Mountain Gun.

The "Sooner Sensations" presented a medley of patriotic and gospel songs. The "Sooner Sensations" are a select group of ladies from the "Sweet Adelines" choral group.

A memorial wreath was presented by World War II Medal of Honor recipients Ernest Childers, Jack Montgomery and John Crews. They were accompanied by four Operation Desert Storm veterans from the Oklahoma Army National Guard, escorted by the Edmond High School Junior ROTC Color Guard and passed under a saber arch formed by the Tinker Air Force Base Sabre Team.

Appropriate band music was provided by the 145th Army Band and a Helicopter flyover was accomplished by the 245th Aviation Battalion. Serving of refreshments and tours of the museum followed the ceremony.

HELLO LADY THUNDERBIRDS!

Can you believe it's almost time for another Reunion. I hope you're looking forward to it as much as we are here in Oklahoma. We are hard at work planning a fun time for you.

This year we're bringing the Shopping to you . . . We are having an Arts & Crafts Show at the Hotel, it will take place on Friday, August 23 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. in the Quarter Horse Room. We will have coffee & tea available for all the shoppers, so come prepared to find a lot of "Good Deals".

Saturday, August 24 is the luncheon. This year we are staying at the Hilton. The theme of the luncheon will be Southwest, and we are having a style show. "Simply Southwest", a wonderful store located in Edmond, Oklahoma will furnish the clothes. They have jewelry, belts, T-shirts, and beautiful clothes which will be available after the show for you to shop.

We are going to try something NEW this year, FOR THE ONES WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE, bring a craft item from home, something you have made or gotten from your home-town and we will give each lady who takes part in our give-away a ticket, at the end of the luncheon we will draw for the items. We will try this and see how it works this year.

I think we are going to have a fun time this year. Don't forget to get your Luncheon ticket when you register, they are sold separate and we need to know how many to plan for. If you have any questions about any of our activities you can write to me. Lois Batey, 1320 Interurban Way, Edmond, Oklahoma 73034.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in August.
Lois Batey
Ladies Activities

THE HUMAN GENERAL

His voice so soft we could hardly hear;
His broad shoulders and smile appeared so near.
With the pointer going in directions all over the map,
He explained it as though he had his son on his lap.
This human soldier, who loves and respects all his troops,
He's so down to earth - he'd be willing to walk in their boots.
As he approached them one by one,
Compassion was written all over his face.
They must have felt sincerity in his strong embrace.
He would not have waged the battle at any cost,
He grimaced, as America did, when one life was lost.
How America loves this gentle giant, with brawn and brain,
He doesn't want to be glorified, nor celebrity status gain.
This ordinary "boy" found a big box of sand, in which to play,
God, bring him home safely - with five stars to display!

HELEN R. STEPHENSON, 5330 S. 36 West Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74107
(Written and mailed to General Schwarzkopf 4 April 1991. The above work cannot be the possession of any person other than the composer and/or for whom it was written. No words can be transposed form said work without permission from the composer).
(Editor's note: Helen's husband was a WWII Thunderbird and they have faithfully attended our annual reunions)

THUNDERBIRDS PARTICIPATE IN HOUSTON, TX "OPERATION CELEBRATION"

"Operation Celebration" was held in Houston, TX 25 May 1991. The major event was a parade honoring veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. Each "era" was represented by a float containing equipment and personnel depicting that particular war. Veterans from each war marched in formation behind the appropriate float.

Several "Thunderbirds" were included in the contingent marching behind the Korean War float. The total group consisted of 37 persons, including one WAC. Ted Maloy, coordinator of the Greater Houston Area Chapter of the association was designated the honor of calling "cadence" for the group during the two mile parade route. Ted reported that they marched, double timed and sung cadence during the march and that all participants completed the entire two mile trek and the heat without incident. He said they were well received and applauded by the crowd of approximately 400,000.

The Korean War Veterans Association had a static display board 8' x 24' a portion of which is visible in the photograph following this article. Ted stated that he met several Thunderbirds from the area that he had not previously contacted concerning membership in the 45th Division Association and their local GHAC group. The display also reflected the casualty
(cont'd on page 3)

(OPERATION CELEBRATION cont'd from page 2)

figures for the Korean War, i.e., 54, 246 KIA, 8, 177 MIA and 389 POW's still unaccounted for. These figures still surprise many people who consider the Korean War as insignificant even though it lasted three years.

The "Thunderbird" is alive and well in Houston, TX and their participation in community affairs is appreciated.

(Information for this article furnished by Ted Maloy, Houston, TX)



Ted Maloy on right

KINGFISHER, OK PARK RENAMED TO HONOR 45TH DIVISION

An existing park located at the intersection of Broadway and 13th Street in Kingfisher, Oklahoma has been redesignated as 45th Infantry Division Memorial Park. The park is located on the 45th Infantry Division Memorial Highway (formerly SH 3).

Appropriate signs have been installed at the park site reflecting the park designation and the "Thunderbird" insignia. The city of Kingfisher will install a flag plaza behind the signs to display flags of the United States, State of Oklahoma and the 45th Division. Night lighting will allow the flags to be on permanent display. Picnic tables will be provided by local former and present members of the 45th Infantry Division and related units, including the 158th Field Artillery Battalion and the 179th Infantry Regiment.

Fred A. Daugherty of Oklahoma City commanding officer of the 179th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War and later commanding general of the post Korea 45th Infantry Division has been instrumental in redesignating State Highway 3 as "The 45th Infantry Division Memorial Highway" and in promoting the memorial roadside parks along the highway across the state. Daugherty is sponsoring half of the sign cost for the local project, while local sponsors will pay for the balance of that expense, plus all the cost of the picnic tables and will be responsible for ongoing expenses of providing flags as needed.

Local coordinators are Merrill Burruss at Peoples National Bank (former 158th FA) and George Brownlee at Kingfisher Bank and Trust Company (former 179th Infantry).

THUNDERBIRD NAMED ANZIO BEACHHEAD ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT

Arnold W. Hirsch of Donora, PA, was elected President of the Anzio Beachhead Veterans of World War II, Inc., at their annual reunion in Louisville, KY, 10 May 1991.

The organization is made up of individuals from all branches of American military services as well as allied personnel (mainly British and Canadian), presently consisting of 1200 members. The membership consists of allied men and women who participated in the Anzio Beachhead campaign in Italy during World War II. The campaign began with an amphibious invasion on 22 January 1944 and ended with a breakout which started 22 May 1944, resulting in the liberation of Rome on 4 June 1944.

Hirsch was a Second Lieutenant Rifle Platoon Leader on Anzio, assigned to Company F, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. He came to Anzio as a replacement, was there for 96 combat days, and was wounded twice. His second wound was serious enough to require four months hospitalization. After wartime duty he remained in the service as a reservist and retired as an Infantry Lieutenant Colonel, having served

as Deputy Battle Group Commander in the 79th Infantry Division.

The Anzio Beachhead Veterans have annual reunions in various places. The 1992 reunion is scheduled for Jacksonville, FL; 1993 will be in Oklahoma City and in 1994 there will be a return to the beachhead to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Anzio campaign. This will be the fourth trip back to Anzio sponsored by the organization. (POC: P.O. Box 342, Donora, PA 15033)

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE MILESTONE

The 45th Infantry Division Museum recently reached a milestone of very special significance. The 300,000th visitor was hosted on 27 April 1991.

Visitors have included residents from each of the states and territories of our republic as well as numerous foreign nations.

Average daily attendance increased from 19 in 1977 to a high of 103 in 1985. Average daily attendance during Calendar Year 1990 was 90.

Your continued support of museum activities and functions is appreciated.

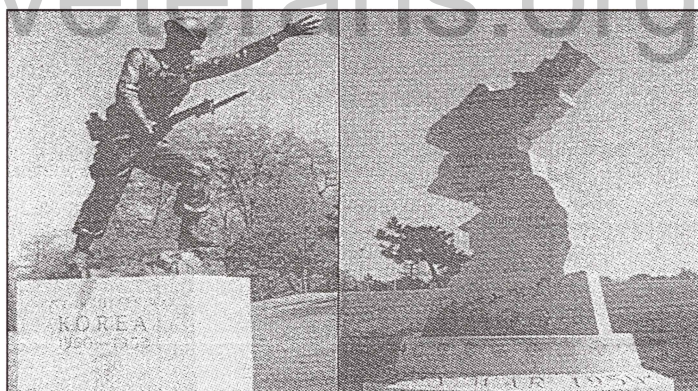
45TH DIVISION COMMENDATIONS DISPLAYED IN MUSEUM

A total of 27 division commendations are currently displayed in the 45th Division Museum. Seventeen pertain to World War II and ten pertain the Korean War.

The commendations have all been laminated and arranged in chronological order in the entry to the Audio Visual Room.

The display shows that many prominent military leaders have commended the 45th Infantry Division, such as Generals Bradley, Patton, Devers, Van Fleet and Patch.

A TIME TO REMEMBER



1950 - 1953

A VICTORY FORGOTTEN BY HISTORY REMEMBERED FOREVER BY THOSE WHO SACRIFICED IN BATTLE AND THOSE AT HOME WHO SUFFERED THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES.

The Korean War Monuments pictured above were unveiled 11 May 1991 at Armed Forces Plaza, Hauppauge, Long Island. These monuments represent the approximately 1.5 million Americans who served their country during the Korean War.

Recognition for the veterans and families of this conflict has been long in coming. The victories of the tenacious American forces and the United Nations allies that contained the staggering number of enemy were exemplified at Inchon, Seoul and Pusan.

The "Thunderbird" is depicted above the "R" in War on the monument on the right.

(Submitted by William Mach, Medford, NY)

REUNION NOTICES

45TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION 22-24 August 1991, Hilton Inn West, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK. Discount airfare information and hotel reservation cards were furnished in April newsletter. Reunion registration forms were forwarded to members by a separate mailing on 1 June 1991.

SERVICE COMPANY, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA). Annual reunion 7-8 September 1991 at Black River Falls, WI. (Previously reported to be held 12 September 1991) Contact: Daniel Murphy, 1101 Third Street, North Saint Cloud, MN 56303. Phone 612/251-6567

COMPANY D, 179TH INFANTRY will hold its annual reunion 9-10 August 1991 in Norman, OK at the Holiday Inn. Contact: Ray Wall, 8508 South Ross, Oklahoma City, OK 73159.

COMPANY G, 180TH INFANTRY has planned a Thunderbird get-together in Abilene, Texas, 8-9 November 1991 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the arrival and stationing of the 45th Division at Camp Berkeley in 1941. Jim Phipps president of the Company G association is inviting all thunderbirds to attend this event.

The Command Post will be located at the Ramada Inn, 3450 South Clack, Abilene, TX, 79606, 915/695-7700 or toll free 800/676-7262. Room rates \$30.00 single, \$35.00 double.

Project chairman is Raul Trevino, 7791 Woodchase Drive #1215, San Antonio, TX 78240-2966, 512/681-9134.

CAMP FANNIN, TEXAS. First reunion of former service members who were stationed and received basic training at Camp Fannin, TX during the period 1943-1946.

The reunion will be held 8-11 November 1991 at the Ramada Inn, Tyler, TX. Scheduled events include a bus tour of Camp Fannin and other points of interest, dinner and dance on Saturday night and a Veterans Day service on Monday.

Contact: Smith County Historical Society, 125 South College Avenue, Tyler, TX 75702.

COMPANY A, 120TH MEDICAL BN (WW II). 19-21 July 1991. Contact Mrs. Fred Cannon, 702 East Main, Cushing, OK 74023, 405/225-1034.

45 CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP (WW II). 11th Annual Reunion will be held September 11-15, 1991 at the George Washington Inn, Williamsburg, VA. Contact Francis P. Accavallo, 775 Scott Drive, River Vale, NJ 07675.

189 FIELD ARTILLERY. 9-11 April 1992, Annual Reunion, Embassy Suites Hotel, Tulsa, OK. Contact: Neal Dodds, 2405 SE 5th Street, Edmond, OK 73034.

645 TANK DESTROYER BN (WW II). 9-11 April 1992, Annual Reunion, Embassy Suites Hotel, Tulsa, OK. Contact: T. J. Hunker, Box 127, Wheatland, OK 73097.

REUNION REPORTS

Seven World War I veterans from the 45th Division held a mini-reunion 8 April 1991 at Charlie's restaurant in Puyallup, WA. This was our first, we rehearsed the war while having lunch and later decided to get together every three months at a different location.

All attendees live in the Tacoma area except Bud Scott. He and his wife, Bernice, drove two and one half hours from Cathlamet, WA to attend.

Three persons from Company G, 180th Infantry attended, they were Bud Scott, Dan Monaghan and Bud Roehler. Others attending were Bill Burnison, 189th FA, Uther Gruggett, Al Blakey and Larry Garner, 179th Infantry. We have since located Glen Koenig, Prosser, WA who will be notified in time for the next meeting.

Any thunderbirds in the State of Washington are welcome to join us. Please contact Edward "Bub" Roehler, 8307 173rd Street East, Puyallup, WA 98373, 206/847-7968.

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Company G, 180th Infantry reunion was held 3-5 May 1991 in conjunction with the 180th Infantry Association annual reunion in McAlester, OK. A total of 28 members and 33 guests were in attendance.

A highlight of the reunion was the attendance for the first time of former Company Commander Benjamin Blackmer and his wife, Marcella. Company members had not seen their former commander in 46 years.

Special guests were Medal of Honor recipient Jack Montgomery and his wife, Joyce. Jack is a former member of Company I, 180th Infantry (WW II).

Members of the 700th Ordnance LM Company, World War II, held their 10th reunion at Lawton, Oklahoma on May 31-June 1, 1991, hosted by Louis Scott.

Twenty-four former members of the organization, plus their wives, were in attendance. Activities included a tour of the Wichita Wildlife Refuge on Friday; a tour of Fort Sill and the Museum on Saturday; a formal banquet Saturday night; and, a memorial service on Sunday morning.

The members opted to meet again in two years in New Orleans, the reunion to be hosted by Fred and Bea Laughlin.

SEEKING INFORMATION

I received my membership material and am glad to finally be a member of the 45th Division Association after 40 some years.

I am writing a book of all the odd-ball things that happened to service members, such as mistaking the sump hole for a foxhole, etc. If there are any Thunderbirds with a story to tell, I would like to hear it, please ask them to contact me.

I hope to make a reunion in the near future.

CHARLES L. FEAY, 2863 114th Lane, NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

★★★★★★★★★★

I am trying to obtain the name and address of the Company Commander, Company B, 179th Infantry Regiment on 13 June 1952 and/or the Medical Aid Man who was at check point "Easy" on that date.

JOHN E. NARAMORE, 3500 Tangle Brush Drive #227, Woodlands, TX 77381

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I wonder if through your newsletter, it would be possible to locate a veteran of WW II who was, I believe, a member of 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. His name is Hubert Fuller and he was in the food service field, perhaps a cook.

Perhaps a member would remember him and contact me. Any assistance you could provide would be appreciated.

ROLAND B. PRIEUR, A.B.M.C., US EMBASSY, APO, NY 09777.

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I am asking for information re Bob H. Adolph. I met him Christmas of 1942 in Brownwood, Texas when I was home on college vacation. My father, the late Col. A. Rhu Taylor, USMA 1920, was then stationed at Camp Bowie with the 8th Army as JAG Officer. Bob was at that time with the 174th FA at Camp Bowie. The last address I have of Bob is: Lt. Bob H. Adolph 0445333, 160th FA Battalion, APO 45, % Postmaster, New York, NY. I do have a picture of Bob taken in Sicily, but have no idea if he survived the war.

NANCY T. EVANS, 7 Ralph Avenue, Falconer, NY 14733.

(Editor's note: Bob Adolph is not a member of the association).

LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

I am interested in hearing from anyone that served in Company A, 179th Infantry Regiment during the period 1 August to 31 December 1944.

PETER GAIDOSH, 667 Chelsea Drive, Sanford, NC 27330

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I would like to establish contact or know the whereabouts of the following men of Company A, 180th Infantry. Their pictures, home city and state were published in the 180th Pictorial Booklet made in Munich, Germany in May 1945: Captain Martin F. Schroeder, Bridgewater, SD; 1st Lt. Albert H. Gable, Philadelphia, PA; Sgt. John Shultz, Wood Cliff Lake, NJ; Pfc Shirley Dean, Sherwood, MI; Pfc Maurice S. Scartozzi, Wayne, PA.

I have established contact with Stanislav Ordinsky, the Russian who joined our Machine Gun Squad. We possibly could work up a meeting at the 45th Division Reunion in Oklahoma City, OK in 1992.

Please send any information to me.

GROVER C. CARR, 9155 Elm Tree Circle, Tyler, TX 75703, 903/581-7970.

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Looking for buddies of Heavy Mortar Company, 179th Infantry Regiment (Korea), 1950 to 1953. I would like to hear from any member of the company in that time period.

GUY G. GEIGER, 6 Segal Drive, New Milford, CT, 06776, 203/354-6878

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Can you furnish any information on Sgt. Haukelberry Scott. I think he was one of the original members of Company I, 180th Infantry that went all the way from Anzio. I met him when I joined the 45th Division in Southern France and we became very good friends.

ALFRED F. MELE, 21-25 47th Street, L.I.C., NY 11105

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(cont'd on page 6)

☆☆LETTERS TO THE EDITOR☆☆

I am enclosing an initial four year membership. I recently retired and shortly thereafter took a part time job to keep busy. I met a member of the 45th Division Association who gave me the membership application.

I was a member of Company B and Headquarters Company, 120th Engineer Battalion in World War II and would like to hear from anyone who remembers me. I was younger than most of the other guys, so I was known as "Junior".

WILLARD KRIEBEL, 120 West School Street, Hatfield, PA 19440

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Please renew my membership for another four years. My service with 179th Infantry began at Fort Devens, MA in May 1942. I remained in the division until after the Anzio Campaign.

I am proud and privileged to have served with the 45th Infantry Division.
JOSEPH MASOCCO, 1856 Saunders Settlement Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

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I joined the 45th Division in Sicily as a replacement and was assigned to the S-2 Section, Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion, 180th Infantry. I served with that unit during the Salerno and Anzio Campaigns and was then transferred to Company A, 180th Infantry and promoted to Staff Sergeant.

I made the Southern France Invasion with Company A. Six days later I was wounded and returned to the 19th General Hospital, Naples, Italy. I rejoined Company A in the Alsace region and was later reclassified and spent a few months training troops near Paris. I have been in the building and real estate field for the past 45 years.

CHARLES H. CLAPP, 9520 Lake Christina Ln., Port Richey, FL 34668

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Enclosed is my application for membership in the 45th Infantry Division Association. I was assigned to Company B, 157th Infantry Regiment in December 1944 and served until August 1945.

I traveled to Epinal by way of forty-and-eight. My most vivid memories start in early 1945. We pushed thru the 44th Infantry Division and we didn't stop until 8 May in Munich via the Siegfried Line, Aschaffenberg, crossing the Rhine and Danube, Nurnberg, Dachau and finally Munich.

Logan V. Catterall of Springfield, VA gave me the information concerning the 45th Division Association.

MAURO M. MANDELLO, 6800 Darby Lane, Springfield, VA 22150

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I was drafted 22 January 1941 and received my basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. I was then transferred to Camp Berkeley, Texas and assigned to Company F, 180th Infantry, 45th Division.

I remained with the "thunderbirds" until we shipped out from Camp Patrick Henry, VA, and participated in the following campaigns: Sicily, Salerno, Anzio and Southern France.

Unfortunately I was captured 6 October 1944 near Epinal, France and transferred to several German prison camps until I reached Stalag 111C on the Oder River East of Berlin.

Freed from Stalag 111C in January 1945, thirteen of us walked and hitch-hiked across Poland down to Odessa, Russia. Returned to the USA in April 1945.

I retired from the Branch of Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Reservation, after 42 years of government service.

Would like to hear from all the Hugo, OK "F" Company buddies.
KENNETH L. BENALLY, #98, road 6700, Waterflow, NM 87421, 505/598-5464.

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I joined the 45th Division in 1963 and was assigned to 700 Support Battalion, Norman, OK and left Oklahoma in 1971 as Assistant Finance Officer in the State Headquarters to accept employment with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Currently serving as a Special Agent in Des Moines, Iowa after previously serving in St. Louis, MO, Washington, DC and Omaha, NE.

I plan on retiring in July 1991 and returning to the Oklahoma City area.
RANDALL D. ROBERTS, 1817-77th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50322.

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I served in Korea as a Platoon Sergeant in Tank Company, 179th Infantry Regiment. After returning to the USA, I received a Commission as a 2d Lieutenant in the same company in Healdton, OK and served until completing my education at the University of Oklahoma.

Upon graduation I accepted employment with Magnolia Petroleum Company (late Mobil Oil Corporation). My work assignments have been in the USA, United Kingdom, Norway, Indonesia and Canada. Presently I am President of Hibernia Management and Development Company in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

Please find enclosed my application for "LIFE" membership in the 45th Infantry Division Association.

BOBBY D. KIMBERLIN, Suite 1000, 100 New Gower Street, St. John's, New Foundland, A1C 6K3

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I served in the 45th Division in Korea from January 1953 to April 1943 as a member of the 120th Engineer Battalion. I returned to the United States with the contingent that paraded in New York City in April 1954. We shipped out of Inchon, Korea with stops in Hawaii, Panama, Columbia and Puerto Rico prior to debarking in New York harbor. I served as a member of the 120th Engineer color guard in the parade.

I am interested in receiving the 45th Division News and attending a future reunion.

DONALD LANGE, 10905 W. Oakwood Road, Franklin, WI 53132

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Recently I saw a "Thunderbird" on a pickup truck parked at a country store. I found the owner and that is how I found out about the 45th Division Association. I am happy to become a member.

Drafted in 1951, I received basic training at Fort Belvoir, VA prior to being shipped to Korea via Japan for Cooks and Bakers School. I arrived in my unit area o/a 1 March 1952 in an area referred to as "Alligator Jaw". We were later moved to the area of Hills 255, 266 and 347 which I think were Baldy, Porkchop and T-Bone.

Dan Blocker was First Sergeant of my unit and my last Company Commander was Lt. Pedro Shira who left Korea when I did in December of 1952.

WAYNE E. WORLEY, 470 Piney Knob Road, Marchall, NC 28753

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I served in Korea for the last nine months of the Police Action. I served with the 158 Field Artillery Battalion.

I have many books on the Korean Conflict. Some of these books do not mention the 45th Infantry Division. Some only have one or two lines on the 45th in the three hundred page book, as if the 45th Division and I did not serve in Korea.

Maybe it was only a dream I had!!! I read the article "Operation Husky", they had a chronicle, I had a bad dream.

ISIDROMIRELES, 3056 Zion Lane, San Jose, CA 95132, 408/251-3189

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I was Commanding Officer of Company K, 180th Infantry during Spring and Summer 1953. Would love to hear from anyone that remembers that period, also was assigned part of that time to Company I and Service Company.

Attended the 180th Infantry reunion in May this year at McAlester and currently plan to attend the Division reunion in August.

CARL CHANCE, 5021 Bellaire Avenue, Groves, TX 77619-3205

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

In late April this year I had my first opportunity to visit your outstanding museum. I had the privilege of serving in the Division from July 52 to July 53.

I was commissioned from Knox College ROTC and received further training at Fort Riley, KS prior to completing the Infantry Company Officer Course at Ft. Benning, GA and then received orders for Korea.

Based on prior training I assumed I would be assigned to an Intelligence position in the G-2 Section, however, when I reported in I was assigned to Headquarters Company, 180th Infantry, after about one week I was reassigned to Company C as a Platoon Leader. Shortly thereafter I was on a training exercise when a jeep pulled up and a Major asked if I was Lt. Pownall. When I said yes, he said, get your gear and report to the G-2 Section. You have been carried as AWOL for the last two weeks.

Later it was my pleasure to become the G2/G3 briefing officer for Major General Ruffner, the 45th Division Commanding General. I enjoyed the Division and the men with whom I served.

ROBERT E. POWNALL, 6275 Stoneyford Court, West Chester, OH 45069-1391

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Forty years ago this month I was drafted and became a member of the 45th Infantry Division. It was one week after I was married and my first daughter was born while I was in Japan before shipping out to Korea.

Luckily I made it back to father five more daughters and two sons. I have four grandsons and three granddaughters so far.

I am retiring in March 1991 as an engraver for the Milwaukee Journal. I have many retirement plans, including attending a reunion of the 45th Division.

MELVINS C. SEAL, JR., 1118 Riverview Court, Grafton, WI 53024

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

A few years ago I had a heart attack and had a double bypass and finally am catching up with my chores, which is long overdue.

I was drafted into the Army, June of 1943 and took my basic training at

(cont'd on page 8)

(LOOKING FOR BUDDIES cont'd from page 4)

I would enjoy hearing from any fellow members of Company E, 179th Infantry from 1934 until 1937. Some of the names I remember are Ernie Schultz, Hohn Schultz, Calvin Bright, Floyd Bright, Woodrow Samples, Bob Hubble and Jim Osborne who never addressed the Captain as anything but "Skipper".

When I enlisted the Company Commander was P.F. Ritchie and the two Lieutenants were Bettinger and Herbert Sittler.

WOODROW W. WOOD, 520 Ashland Avenue, Aurora, IL 60505

Frank Nicolazzo, a member of B Co, 120th Ordnance Bn. during the Korean conflict, would like to hear from any former Thunderbirds who remember him. Write Frank at 28 Falmouth St., Rochester, NY 14615. (716) 865-0145.

I was a member of Company E, 179th Infantry during the Korean War. I was a member of the 45th Division football team in Japan and have been in touch with John Neimeyer, who also played on the football team.

I am retired, living in Harbor Springs, Michigan and selling real estate in this resort area.

Would like to hear from any other members of the team or anyone from Walters, Oklahoma who was in Company E during the war.

GEORGE E. MELZOW, 465 Glen Drive, P.O. Box 777, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

THUNDERBIRD DEATHS

JACK CONN, Oklahoma City, OK., deceased 15 May 1991 at age 81. Jack was a pre-World War II member of the 160th Field Artillery Battalion.

Conn was a leading state banker and community supporter. The 45th Infantry Division Museum was the beneficiary of his strong community support.

He was orphaned early in life and grew up on a farm south of Ada, OK. Jack graduated first in his law class from the University of Oklahoma Law School and then practiced law with the late U.S. Senator Robert S. Kerr from 1940 to 1951.

He became president of Oklahoma State Bank in Ada, OK in 1951 and served in that capacity until appointed Chairman and CEO of Fidelity National Bank in Oklahoma City in 1965. He held this position until his retirement in 1983.

DELMAS L. FORD, Oklahoma City, died 6 May 1991. He was a pre-World War II member of the 179th Infantry Regiment.

Delmas participated in the Nicaraguan Campaign in 1928-1929 as a member of the US Marines and retired with the 141st Naval Construction Battalion in World War II. He retired from the US Army as a Master Sergeant.

He was a former clerk of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, Assistant Secretary of the State School Land Commission. He also wrote a column "Delmas Speaks" for the Del City News for several years.

Survivors include one daughter Della Jean Nash, one son Delmas Lee Ford, 13 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

ARTHUR J. DENONCOURT, Tulsa, OK, deceased October 1990. Served as a member of 3rd Battalion, 279th Infantry in Korea. He retired as a Chief Warrant Officer.

Arthur was a graduate of the University of Tulsa, OK and a long time member of REMCO Manufacturing Company of Tulsa. At the time of his death he was employed by Vandivort & Associates Law Firm.

Survivors include his wife Lucille, one daughter, one son, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren, all of whom miss him very much.

CHARLES M. HARRIS, Atlanta, GA, deceased March 1991. Served as a member of Company I, 179th Infantry during the Korean War.

His son Major G. Chesley Harris, Brigade S3, 1st Armored Division stated that his father wore the "Thunderbird" with great pride.

Major Harris furnished information concerning his father's death upon return from "OPERATION DESERT STORM" to settle his estate.

FRANK H. HROMADKA, Milligan, Nebraska, deceased January 1991.

Frank was a member of the 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the 45th Division in World War II.

He departed for overseas in April 1943, was captured by the German Army in September 1944 until liberated in February 1945.

Awards and decorations include the Bronze Star w/Oak Leaf Cluster and Purple Heart w/Oak Leaf Cluster.

Survivors include his wife Alma, two daughters and six grandchildren.

WILLIAM P. PESALL, Rapid City, SD. Deceased April 1991. He was a member of 45th Reconnaissance Company during the Korean War. Burial was with military honors by the Rushmore VFW Post 1273 in Black Hills National Cemetery.

Awards and decorations included the Korean Service Medal with two campaign stars, the United Nations Service Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

He lived in Rapid City most of his life except for four years (1965-1969) when he resided in Anchorage, Alaska.

Survivors include his wife Edna, one son, one daughter, two stepsons, one stepdaughter, six grandchildren and one stepgrandchild.

CURTIS T. PRICE, Columbus, Ohio, deceased February 1991. Curtis was a member of Second Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment during World War II. After serving in Italy, he was assigned to the 45th Division as a replacement at Epinal, France. He served until the end of the war and accompanied the division to Camp Bowie, Texas as a member of Service Company, 179th Infantry.

Awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, EAME Ribbon and World War II Victory Medal.

His wife, Betty stated that Curtis was very proud of his service in the 45th Infantry Division and was a true "Thunderbird". Pursuant to his request Betty is having the "Thunderbird Insignia" placed on his tombstone.

Betty said that she was particularly grateful that the last reunion in August 1990 was such a successful and happy one for them.

Survivors include his wife, Betty, one son and two grandsons.

ALBERT C. THOMAS, Tulsa, OK, deceased January 1991. Albert enlisted in the 45th Division in 1928 as a Private and retired in 1968 as a Colonel.

Albert was activated with the division in September 1940 and saw service in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Southern France and Germany with the 160th Field Artillery. He was a long-time First Sergeant and Sergeant Major prior to receiving a commission in 1944. Awards and decorations include the Silver Star Medal for "Gallantry in Action". He was retired from the US Postal Service and the Army.

Survivors include two sons, two daughters, two brothers and three grandchildren.

RICHARD A. THOMAS, Pueblo, Colorado, deceased March 1991. He was member of Company D, 179th Infantry during World War II. Richard enter military service 7 January 1941 and was separated 17 August 1945.

He was a longtime resident of Pueblo and retired from the Postal Service as supervisor of collection and delivery after many years service.

Awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge, EAME Ribbon w/3 campaign stars, Purple Heart w/Oak Leaf Cluster, American Defense Service Ribbon and the Good Conduct Ribbon.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, one son, 3 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

PAUL E. WALKER, Tonkawa, OK, deceased March 1991 at age 75. From 1940 to 1945 he was infantryman with the 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division serving throughout World War II with that organization during training in the United States and in combat in Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. Awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge and the EAME ribbon w/eight campaign stars and a bronze arrowhead representing four Amphibious Combat Landings.

Paul was a thirty one year Postal Service employee retiring in 1978.

Survivors include his wife Lenore, two stepsons, four step grandchildren and five step great-grandchildren.

LOST ADDRESSES FOR "LIFE" MEMBERS

Charles M. McCracken, Fort Hood, TX
David B. Mosby, Muskogee, OK
James O. Pridgen, Decatur, GA
Harley Rhynes, Bakersfield, CA
Henry P. Roberson, APO NY, NY
John L. Sourvelis, Wyoming, MI
Clay Routh, Chicago, IL
Robert Brescia, APO Norfolk, VA
William T. Bresnahan, St. Augustine, FL
Wilfred Dube, Pelham, NH
M.D. Gilbert, Reno, NV
George B. LaRoche, Sacramento, CA

(THUNDERBIRD DEATHS cont'd from page 6)

ALBERT L. YOUNG, Lynbrook, NY (originally from NYC Chinatown), deceased February 1991. He was a member of Company H, 179th Infantry during World War II. Awards and decorations include a Bronze Star w/V device for heroic achievement during combat in Southern France.

He worked nine years as a Bureau of Narcotics agent, then for the US Immigration and Naturalization Service, retiring as a supervisor in 1989.

Survivors include his wife, Jane, 2 sons, 4 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

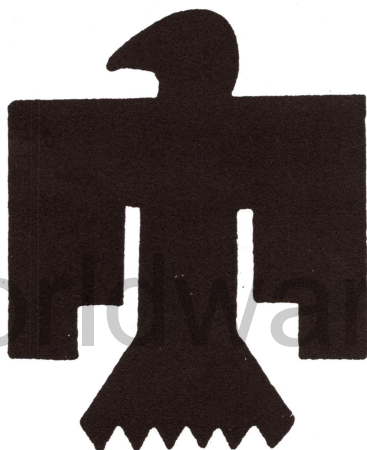
★★★★★★★★★★

DONALD R. ZANINELLI, Bayonne, NJ, deceased January 1991. He was a member of the 179th Infantry during World War II. Awards and decorations include American Theater Ribbon, EAME Theater Ribbon, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Purple Heart.

He certainly was proud to being a "Thunderbird" and enjoyed the 45th Division News, always looked forward to receiving the next issue.

Donald was wounded-in-action at Anzio and returned to the United States early in 1944.

Survivors include his wife, Toni, one daughter and three sons.



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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 Division Museum.

Christopher Bills	President
Wm. Rex Wilson	Secretary/Editor
Louis A. Scott	Associate Editor
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 N.E. 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111

DO NOT SEND ITEMS THAT MUST BE RETURNED!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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:

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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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(LETTERS TO EDITOR cont'd from page 5)

Camp Croft, SC. We were sent overseas immediately on a fast ship zig zagging across the Atlantic to avoid the German Sub's. I joined the 180th Inf., of the 45th Division in Italy, had a few weeks of combat training and was up on the front lines in January of 1944. Our communication lines broke down and our platoon was left up front stranded and was over run by the Germans. We were captured at Anzio, Italy on February 18, 1944 and were held prisoners for 15 months. Worked almost every day or else. Lived on turnips, rutabagas, and potatoes. We worked all the way to East Prussia. Near the end of the war, March of 1945, we were on a death march, about 2500 of us, mostly all Americans, from East Prussia to Hanover, Germany which took about 31 days. I was almost sent to Buchenwald because I defied a Nazi Guard, from puncturing our cans of meat we got once in a while from out Red Cross parcels. I could go on and on but we all know the rest of the story. Incidentally I wore wooden shoes wrapped in paper and old rags because of frozen feet.

I was proud to serve with the 45th Div. and proud to be called a Thunderbird.

May God bless all those men who gave their lives for freedom. With Gratitude.

FRANK BOLAK, 288 Davisville Road, Warminster, PA 18974.

★★★★★★★★★★

I served as a member of Co. C 179th Regt and joined the Division at Fort Devens after basic training at Camp Croft, So. Carolina. I took part in the Sicilian Campaign and the invasion of Salerno, Italy. At that time I was wounded and captured by German Troops and spent 19 months between, A German Hospital in Munich, Stalag 7A, Stalag 2B and finally a Kommando in Hasenfier, Germany. We were rousted off the farm in February of 1945 (in a snow storm) and after several weeks, sleeping in barns and surviving on potatoes, we were incarcerated at a small village called Rugenzee, below Keil, Germany. We were liberated by the U.S. 8th Division. I sure wouldn't want to be a P.O.W. in Iraq.

I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A THUNDERBIRD.

ELBERT J. VICKERS, 74 Rockaway Street, Lynn, Mass 01902

TAPS

Ted E. Carroll
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Since Last Newsletter

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