

# 45th Division News

July, 1992

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

## COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow Thunderbirds,

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Republic of Korea. While I was in Seoul I dropped in on Sun K. Pang who manages the Hartell House Club on Youn San. Pang is the Korean boy who was supported by the 179th Infantry during the war. Later Pang joined the US Army and served a distinguished career until his retirement. Pang will be in Oklahoma City for the m Company 179th Infantry reunion in November. He asked me to extend his best wishes to all of you.

Governor David Walters declared April 14, 1992 as "Save the 45th Day" in Oklahoma. The highlight of the day was the address to a joint session of the Oklahoma legislature by United States Senators David Boren and Don Nickles. Senator Boren, making the keynote address, blasted the Department of Defense for the proposal and pledged his continued support to ensure the 45th Infantry Brigade would remain as a viable combat force and stay in future force structure plans. Senator Nickles pledged his support and commended the record and honors of the "Thunderbirds".

I would continue to solicit your support with letters to President Bush and to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation. The letters to the President are of particular importance since he pledged to retain the 45th Infantry Brigade, yet the Department of Defense continues to ignore the President's promise and continue with inactivation plans.

I took the opportunity to visit the 180th Infantry Association reunion in McAlester, Oklahoma during the Armed Forces Day Celebration in May. Harry Barnes, President of the 180th Association and his committee planned and conducted an outstanding reunion and all seemed to enjoy themselves. We look forward to seeing many of the same crew in August at the National Reunion in Oklahoma City.

We look forward to seeing all of you in August at the Radisson Hotel (its the same place as always just a new name and a face lift). All of the committees have worked hard to ensure you will have a great time and that your needs will be met to the best of our ability. As always, if there are specific requests or recommendations, we solicit your thoughts. Have a great summer and a safe trip to Oklahoma City in August.

Regards,

Bill Wilson

## THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS

CHARLES GEORGE

(MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT)

Private First Class, Company C, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. Near Songnae-dong, Korea, 30 November 1952. Entered service at: Whittier, NC. Born: 23 August 1932, Cherokee, NC. General Order Number 19, 18 March 1954.

### CITATION

PFC George a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy on the night of 30 November 1952. He was a member of a raiding party committed to engage the enemy and capture a prisoner for interrogation. Forging up the rugged slope of the key terrain feature, the group was subjected to intense mortar and machinegun fire and suffered several casualties. Throughout the advance, he fought valiantly and upon reaching the crest of the hill, leaped into the trenches and closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. When friendly troops were ordered to move back upon completion of the assignment, he and 2 comrades remained to cover the withdrawal. While in the process of leaving the trenches a hostile soldier hurled a grenade into their midst. PFC George shouted a warning to 1 comrade, pushed the other soldier out of danger and with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion. Although seriously wounded in the display of valor, he refrained from any outcry which would divulge the position of his companions. The 2 soldiers evacuated him to the forward aid station and shortly thereafter he succumbed to his wound. PFC George's indomitable courage, consummate devotion to duty, and willing self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself and uphold the finest traditions of the military service.

## COMBAT CHRONICLES

### OPERATION AVALANCHE

#### 180TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Invasion of Italy, 9 to 30 September 1943. The 180th Infantry Regimental Combat team did not reach the mainland of Italy from Sicily until the 14th of September 1943, due to a lack of naval transport. The 180th was placed in Army reserve upon landing on the beach at Salerno.

On 19 September the 180th Infantry RCT was returned to division control and moved into the division area NORTH of CANALE DI BENIFICAMENTO, Southwest of Highway 18. One company was retained by Fifth Army as a headquarters guard. During the day the regiment moved by motors to an area just NORTH of PERSANO and WEST of the SELE River.

The 180th took the lead on 20 September in the Army advance against a stubborn enemy. The 157th and 179th Infantry Regiments were in division reserve. The 180th reached a position West of RNE OPPED and SW of OLIVETO where their point was fired on by enemy machine guns. The advance was greatly delayed by the many blown bridges and by many mines.

On the morning of the 21st, the first enemy contact was driven out, but the regiment encountered enemy positions strongly supported by mortars and artillery South of the aqueduct and West of OLIVETO.

The enemy selected favorable terrain for defense along the aqueducts West of OLIVETO. He used aggressive, defensive tactics, combined with long range artillery fire and his mortars and machine guns were well coordinated. The 180th RCT continued to push forward toward OLIVETO on an unimproved road North of Highway 91 and met considerable resistance in the vicinity of OLIVETO. The ground in this area was very rough with good enemy observation, and it was defended by the bulk of a battalion of the 64th

(cont'd on page 2)

# " REUNION FORMS INSIDE "



PGR, supported by considerable artillery.

The 3rd Battalion, less 1 company held in reserve for Fifth Army guard, preceded by 2 companies of light tanks from the 756th Tank Battalion and 1 company of medium tanks from the 191st Tank Battalion attacked and secured the high ground about 1/2 miles Southwest of OLIVETO. This action cut off much of the hostile observation, but a continuation of the attack to OLIVETO was prevented when the tanks ran low on gas and ammunition. Throughout the day's action, the 180th suffered 28 KIA and 106 WIA.

On 23 September, the 180th RCT, from positions on the high ground to the West of OLIVETO, moved cross-country along the edge of the hills with SENERCHIA the objective. A strong enemy position was uncovered North of AQUA BIANCA. An attack was launched to envelop both flanks and the position was taken. The RCT continued to the North and took up positions South of PICEGLIA Creek.

The German defense of the area surrounding OLIVETO and QUAGLIETTA was bitter and determined. The enemy was forced to withdraw only after the full weight of superior fire power and maneuvering had been brought to bear.

The 180th RCT captured SENERCHIA on 24 September and organized the ground to the Northwest to cover the advance of the 179th Infantry Regiment.

For the remainder of the month of September, contact with the withdrawing enemy was sporadic with them using many mines and blown bridges to obtain their controlled retreat.

Heavy rains fell throughout the night of 28-29 September, slowing down traffic on all by-passes and washing out the by-pass near CAPOSELE. The 2d Battalion, 180th RCT established a defensive position in the vicinity of FRIGENTO.

The harsh Italian winter was already in evidence through the torrential rains throughout the combat area, slowing the advance of Allied troops and was an ally of the enemy, who was starting to build their insurmountable defensive winter line in the mountains of Italy.

#### 47TH ANNUAL REUNION 20-23

The Forty-Seventh Annual Reunion of the 45th Infantry Division Association will be held 20-23 August 1992 at The Radisson, Oklahoma City, Interstate 40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma NOTE: (The Hilton Inn West was renamed "THE RADISSON, OKLAHOMA CITY" effective 1 June 1992.)

Committee appointment have been made by President Bill Wilson and committee members have been working hard since their appointments during the January board of directors meeting. Danny Marler is the Reunion General Chairman and all planning is on target.

Friday activities are the same format as last year, including the business meeting, sit down dinner followed by a Country and Western dance to music provided by a Disk Jockey

Saturday activities include a Memorial Service, Ladies Luncheon, the Annual Banquet and dancing to live music.

Hotel reservation and reunion "Registration and Transportation Request" form are included in this newsletter. Hotel reservation forms **"MUST"** be mailed direct to the Radisson. **PLEASE** do not mail them to the association.

If you plan to attend, please complete the "Registration and Transportation Request" form and mail to: 45th Infantry Division Association, 2145 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111. This will facilitate advance planning and permit the registration committee to prepare registration packets prior to your arrival.

The reunion committee would appreciate a maximum effort by the membership toward "ADVANCE REGISTRATION" AND PREPAYMENT of the amount due. This will preclude the registration committee from handling large amount of cash at the reunion site and will permit us to serve you better.

#### LADY THUNDERBIRD CORNER

Can you believe it's a little over a month until the "Reunion", I can hardly wait to see all my old friends and to make new ones this year. We have a lot of plans for you this year. We are going to have our Second Annual 45th Association Arts & Craft Show, which will take place on Thursday and Friday, August 20th and 21st.

This year we are going to give all our members a chance to bring their "Crafts" to sell. We will have room for approximately 30 tables. The charge will be \$10.00 per table for two days (the fee will be used to provide coffee and tea during the craft show). Anyone interested in showing will need to write or call me for an application. Tables will be allotted on a "first come first served" basis. The deadline will be 31 July or until all tables are reserved.

The Ladies Luncheon will be held at the hotel again this year. Our entertainment

will be a group called "Reach for the Stars". I know you will enjoy them, so plan to attend on Saturday, 22 August. For those who would like to participate in the door prize drawing, bring a craft item on Saturday. The drawing will be held during the luncheon.

We are looking forward to seeing you in August and hope to receive a lot of applications from all over the country for our Craft Show. So plan to attend the reunion for a great time.

**PLEASE**, remind your husband to order your luncheon ticket when he completes the reunion registration form.

#### SEE YOU IN AUGUST!!!

LOIS BATEY, 1320 INTERURBAN WAY, EDMOND, OK 73034, 405/340-4626

#### 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION APPRECIATION DAY

Oklahoma Legislature Concurrent Resolution Number 99, approved 27 April 1988 proclaimed the second Tuesday in April of each year beginning in 1989 as "45th Infantry Division Appreciation Day". Concurrent Resolution Number 67, approved 6 April 1992 further identified 14 April 1992 as "SAVE THE 45TH" day.

Oklahoma Governor David Walters issued a proclamation designating 14 April 1992 as "SAVE THE 45TH DAY" in concurrence with 45th Division Appreciation Day in the State of Oklahoma. Supporting Resolutions Were submitted by Oklahoma City Mayor Ronald J. Norick and the American Legion.

Speakers for the occasion were United State Senators David Boren and Don Nickles. Both pledged their support to reducing the personnel losses of the Oklahoma Army National Guard and retaining the lineage and colors of the 45th Infantry Division.

The Concurrent Resolution "SAVE THE 45TH" was read by State Senator William G. "Bill" Gustafson a 45th Infantry Division veteran who was severely wounded during the Korean War while a member of the 179th Infantry Regiment.

The association and museum were represented during the ceremony by Fred Daugherty, Eddie Cope and Bill Wilson.

#### MUSEUM HOSTS MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Marian Opala, Chief Justice of the Oklahoma supreme Court was the principal speaker for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony conducted at the 45th Infantry Division Museum.

The event also marked the opening of a new special exhibit at the museum honoring the late Colonel James O. Smith of Okemah, Oklahoma. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in June 1940, three months before the 45th Infantry Division was called to active duty. He served as a unit and battalion commander throughout the war and completed his wartime service as a Lieutenant Colonel. Subsequent to World War II he was promoted to Colonel and assigned as commander of the 180th Infantry Regiment. He served in that capacity during the Korean War. Following the Korean War he continued as commander of the 180th until he was named Assistant division Commander, holding this position until his retirement.

Inclement weather required cancellation of the band music, Hotchkiss Mountain Gun Salute, Massing of the Colors and the Helicopter fly-over. Ceremonies were conducted inside the museum. Vocal solos were performed by Marcie Barrett, Miss University of Central Oklahoma

Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives Glen Johnson officially opened the special exhibit honoring Colonel Smith.

Approximately 500 persons attended the ceremony.

#### LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

I want to inform you of the passing of my friend Walter Siewert who served with me during the Korean War. He took basic training at Camp Chaffee, AR and then was assigned to Battery C, 145 AAA Battalion. We served in Korea from June 1952 until June 1953.

I would like to hear from anyone who served with me in HHB 145 AAA during this period.

**WAYNE DOLGE, 5133 34th Place North, Minneapolis, MN 55422.**

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I would like to hear from anyone who was in Company H, 180th Infantry Regiment from June 1944 to November 1945. I took early retirement from Columbia Gas Transmission, where I was Superintendent, in 1983.

I have been married to my boyhood sweetheart, Jerry Pauline, for forty eight years. We have three children, four grand-children and one great grand-son. We hope to attend the 45th Division reunion this year.

**EDGAR E. EDWARDS SR, PO BOX 16234, Surfside Beach, SC 29587**

A friend told me about the 45th Division Association and gave me a copy



of the 45th Division News which I enjoyed reading.

I joined the Army in November 1950 and was assigned to the 45th Division at Camp Polk, LA. I served with Company K, 180th Infantry until I rotated back to the US from Korea in September 1952.

I would like to say hello to all of my buddies I served with and would enjoy hearing from any of them.

**ALVIN E. MEIER**, 102 S Coe-Y-Yah Street, Pryor, OK 74361.

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I served with the 45th Division in World War II from May 1942 until September 1945. I would like to locate anyone in my platoon which was First Platoon, Company M, 180th Infantry Regiment. I was a Buck Sergeant, Squad Leader and most of the boys called me Pop.

The names I remember and would like to locate are George Roach, OK, Theodore Young, IL, Joshua Holloway, Hollis, Long Island NY, Robert Dittmore MI, Gabriel Maldonado, Gilo, NM, Boyd Vantine, OK and our cook Walkingstick, OK.

Many times in our home we have talked about my wartime friends and experiences, but we never knew about the 45th Infantry Division Association and knew of no way to locate my army friends.

**RALPH OWENS**, 2630 Woodsmith Road, Knoxville, TN 37921, 615/588-3656.

### SEEKING INFORMATION

My father, Kenneth J. Hutton, who is now deceased, served during World War II in Company E, 180th Infantry. I am anxious to find out as much as I can about my father's military career. He was taken prisoner on 6 October 1944 and was released 2 May 1945. I believe he was either in Stalag XII-A or at least processed through that camp, I have his POW tags.

Any assistance you or any of your fellow 45th Division members can provide would be greatly appreciated.

**SANDY HUTTON**, 7423-H Sieloff, St Louis, MO 63042, 314/839-3833.

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I would like to write the story of my village during the second World War. I lead active investigations and am trying to find soldiers who fought at SOYE in the DOUBS (FRANCE) or any information concerning this battle, I have discovered that it was the 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry who participated in this action and that the battalion headquarters and Company B were billeted at SOYE on the 8 and 9 of September 1944.

I have found the names of two soldiers: First Lieutenant Robertson and a Corporal who was perhaps a Canadian EDGAR BAUDET. I also know that two French National (FFI) accompanied the 1st Battalion, they were EDMOND BORREANI et RENE GINSBOURGER.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who can help me with information concerning this particular battle.

**RAPHAEL LEROUX**, 8 rue Blomet, 75015, Paris, France.

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The Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., is attempting to locate individuals who directly participated in liberating World War II concentration camps. If you meet this criteria and desire to share your personal experiences please contact the following: Ms Linda Lazar, Director Special Projects, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2000 L. Street, NW, Suite 717, Washington, DC 20036

### REUNION NOTICES

**45th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION: THE RADISSON**, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, Ok 21-23 August 1992. Reunion Registration and Hotel Reservation forms are contained in this newsletter. The following listed organizations/units are conducting reunions in conjunction with the Association.

**COMPANY B, 179TH INFANTRY (WWII)**: Contact Charles H. Johnson, 3501 E. 30th Street, Tulsa, OK 74114. 918/747-6804.

**COMPANY B, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA)**: Contact Bill Shirey, P.O. Box 1467, Estes Park, CO 80517. 303/586-0343.

**COMPANY L, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA)**: Contact Mansell R. Garrett Jr., Route 4, Box 332, Leeds, AL 35094. 205/699-7342.

**HEAVY MORTAR COMPANY, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA)**: 20-23 August 1992, The Radisson, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Guy Geiger, 6 Segal Drive, New Milford, CT 06776. 203/354-6878.

**H&S COMPANY, 120 ENGINEER BN**: 20-21 August 1992. Contact Woody Harris, 26 Preston Circle, Stillwater, Ok 74075. 405/372-4098.

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**COMPANY G, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA)**: Howard Johnson Hotel, 4822 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI, 22-25 July 1992. Contact Kip Derge, 1206 Douglas Avenue, Watertown, WI 53094 414/261-5686 or Penn V. Rabb, Jr., 728 NW 46th Street, Lawton, OK 73505, 405/357-1796

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**COMPANY D, 180TH INFANTRY (KOREA)**: Cinderella Motor Hotel, Shawnee, OK 7-8 August 1992. Contact Merle L. Davis, 804 East Franklin, Shawnee, OK 74801, 405/273-5564.

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**COMPANY D, 179TH INFANTRY**: 7-8 August 1992, Norman, OK. Contact Russell Haight, 1921 Beverly Hills, Norman, OK 73072 or Ray Wall, 8508 South Ross, Oklahoma City, OK 73159.

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**COMPANY M, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA)**: 6-8 November 1992, THE RADISSON, Oklahoma City (formerly Hilton Inn West) I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City Oklahoma. George Brownlee, PO Box 76, Kingfisher, OK 73750.

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**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 279TH INFANTRY (KOREA)**: 18-21 September 1992 at the Holiday Inn/Oakland Park, 4505 Woodson Road, St Louis MO 63134 (1-800/426-4700).

Rooms blocked until 4 September. Individuals are responsible for making their own reservations. Contact: Rodney H. Rosssdeutscher 5008 Shore Acres Road, Monona, WI 53716, 608/222-8322 or Vernon Buchanan, P.O. Box 85, Vinita, OK 74301.

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**45TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP (WW II)**: Ramada Inn, Seekonk, MA, 9-12 September 1992. Contact Emilio Adamo, 75 Bismark Street, Providence, RI 02904, 401/274-8754.

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**COMPANY M, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA)**: Holiday Inn, Lynchburg, VA 7-9 August 1992. Contact Boyed H. Burnley, 203 Lemon Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24501, 804/385-4579.

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**THE 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS** encourages all members of Satellite Units and organization to join the 45th Infantry Division Association and participate in association annual reunions. These actions will ensure the longevity of the division association and the continued financial support of the 45th Infantry Division Museum which is vital to the day to day activities of the museum.

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**FUTURE REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE 45TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED.**

### REUNION REPORTS

**ANTI-TANK COMPANY, 180TH INFANTRY (WWII)** held their fourth mini-reunion 6-7 September 1991 at the Quality Inn, East-Columbus, OH. Plans were made to meet in Dayton, OH in September 1992. Interested persons contact: Paul Bailey, 8523 Scipio Road, Nunda, NY 14517.

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**45TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP (WW II)** held their eleventh reunion at the George Washington Inn, Williamsburg, VA 11-14 September 1991. Attendance included 39 members and 55 wives and guests. The event was hosted by Francis and Joan Accavallo and Pat and Flo Sisto.

Activities included trips to Washington, DC, Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown and Richmond, also a boat ride on the Jamestown River.

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**157TH INFANTRY REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM** held their 1991 reunion 3-8 September in Denver, CO. There was a near record attendance of 563 individuals present. Forty-Six states were represented.

Officers elected for 1992 were Clarence W. Hodges as president, Richard T. Breidenbach as vice-president and Felix L. Sparks as Secretary.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I received my basic training at Paso Robles, CA and was then released from active duty because I was over 28 years old. After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor I was recalled in early February 1942 at Fort Sam Houston, TX and from there was sent to the 45th Infantry Division at Camp Barkeley, TX and assigned to the 158th FA Battalion.

I was assigned to the ammunition section in Service Battery where I remained for the duration of the war. I was promoted to Sergeant by Captain Nikkel.

During the initial combat actions after the Salerno invasion I was awarded a Silver Star for evacuating two wounded officers of the 157th Infantry Regiment from the Tobacco Barns to an aid station. The Silver Star was given to me by Colonel Funk.

I have made a few reunions and had some wonderful times. I will be 81 years old 22 February 1992 so I guess the party is about over, anyway I have enjoyed all of it.

**DENT INGRAM**, Rural Route 2, Carrizo Springs, TX 78834.

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The 45th Division News just arrived and our picture appearing there reminded me to write and thank you for a most enjoyable time. Remember us--Mom and 6 daughters from Missouri at the ladies luncheon last August. I know a lot of time and effort goes into the making, and we really do appreciate it every year.

Please pass on to Paul Robinson our thanks for so kindly taking all our pix with everyone's cameras. They all turned out great. Good photographer.

The girls and our son are planning to return with us for the reunion in August 1992. We are all looking forward to it.

**KATE H. WOOD**, 21 Melinda Drive, Union, MO 63084

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I joined the National Guard while a student at Oklahoma State University. My unit was Company C, 179th Infantry, however, prior to the 1950 mobilization I transferred to the 120th Engineer Battalion. Before going overseas in March 1951, I married Jeannie Miller, who was teaching in the Twin Falls, Idaho school system.

I returned from Korea in the spring of 1952 and joined my family's business in Sapulpa, OK Gabe's Office Supply and Printing, and also published the "Democrat News" a weekly newspaper serving Creek County, OK.

Jeannie and I have two children, Roger 39 and Karyn 36. Roger lives in Denver, CO and Karyn in Sapulpa, OK. I am a member of BPOE, VFW, Masons, Rotary, and Elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Sapulpa and served as a Scoutmaster for 15 years.

Hobbies include making and restoring old clocks and woodworking in my home shop. We like to cruise, travel in our 5th Wheel and plan to do more fishing upon retirement.

**WILLIAM R. GIERHART**, 19 N Moccasin Place, Sapulpa, OK 74066.

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It was startling and extremely satisfying to find Corporal Jack Korakian's name listed under "Posthumous awards of the Distinguished Service Cross". This from the book presented to General Fred Daugherty and the group of thunderbirds that revisited Korea this past October.

I was with Jack on the day this action occurred, January 23, 1952 (40 years ago almost to the day), near Hyonyogdae, just North of Chorwon, I was the platoon leader and he was an assistant squad leader.

I left Korea before I heard of Jack's award, but heard from friends that he was nominated. So, it was confirmed for me by the January newsletter.

I remember Jack as not being an "enthusiastic" garrison soldier, but as the record indicates, he was one "Great" combat soldier, which is what it is all about.

**BILL ELLEDGE**, 2904 Donahey Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116

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In May 1945, I was serving as the ranking NCO in the 2d Platoon, Company C, 179th Infantry Regiment. At that time we did not have an assigned officer in our platoon. Captain William White was the company commander.

The 45th Division was moving down the Autobahn toward Munich using all four lanes. As we came out from an overhead, we were stopped cold by 88 fire from a point about a mile ahead of us. The 8 8's were backed up by

infantry in a town called Garching.

My platoon was given an order to go into Garching and secure some houses so the rest of the unit could move in after dark. We were transported into Garching by four tanks. I believe this was the last combat for our battalion as Germany surrendered the next day.

I would like to hear from Frank Druschel who was one of our officers  
**RUSSEL C. MILLS**, 6012 West Rafter Circle, Tucson, AZ 85713.

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While on vacation in Saratoga, NY in August 1991 I noticed a person wearing a hat with the 45th Division Insignia on it. Having been a member of Company E, 179th Infantry Regiment during World War II, I made inquiries with him about the hat. Lo and behold, he handed me a copy of the 45th Division News, something I knew nothing about, of course it brought back memories.

While reading the news I noticed a number of familiar names. I am sorry about being 50 years late in becoming a member and am enclosing a check for a 10 year membership.

**A. G. HOLZHEIMER**, % Holt, Box 62, Lindendale, NY 10540.

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I recently came across an article in a U.S. Army Publication on the participation of several Oklahoma Army National Guard Units and Organization (essentially the 158th FA) in Operation DESERT STORM, which I am enclosing for your information.

I served in Korea (1952-1953) with Division Artillery Headquarters and the 180th Infantry Regiment and was happy to see elements of the former 45th Infantry Division play a role of substance in the Iraqi campaign.

As I recollect from some historical work that I did when I was in Division Artillery Headquarters, the 158th FA assisted other division artillery elements stop the major German effort on September 13, 1943 to eradicate the Salerno beachhead.

It was good to see the Thunderbird carried into a victorious campaign, particularly after my experience from the Korean stalemate.

**RUSSELL D. JACOBSON**, 504 East 74th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64131.

(Editor's note: Eleven units and approximately 1800 Oklahoma National Guard personnel participated in operation Desert Storm)

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I was very pleased to find out about the 45th Infantry Division Association and the annual reunions. I joined the division at Fort Devens, MA in August 1942 and was assigned to the 171st Field Artillery. I remained with that unit until evacuated from Anzio in early 1944 with "trench foot".

Please put me on your mailing list and I will be at the reunion in August 1992.

**CECIL W. AYCOCK**, Route 19, Box 345-I, Tyler, TX 75706.

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It is with great pride and honor that I forward my membership renewal for the best outfit to ever serve its country, in war or peace.

With a wife and son and another on the way, I was drafted into the Army in 1943. After basic training at Camp Blanding, FL I was sent overseas and assigned to Company C, 157th Infantry then in France, as a BAR man. I wasn't too long in combat as I was with the outfit in January 1945, when five companies, plus components, were cut off, surrounded and captured at Reipertswiller. All but a few were killed, wounded or captured. I spent the rest of the war at Stalag XIIA. After the war I spent five weeks in the hospital before being returned to the "States" for discharge.

I retired from Goodrich Tire Company in 1982 after 32 years employment. I can't tell you how proud I am that the "Powers that be" decided not to disband the 45th. Keep up the good work.

**ROBERT RODENBAUGH SR.**, 122 Burnside Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403.

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I have been checking the 45th Division News and other publications for a reunion for my unit, but I have never seen one for Company E, 180th Infantry. I joined them at Camp Polk, LA and went to Japan and Korea with them. We had a great bunch of boys and I would sure like to see some of them again.

(LETTERS TO THE EDITOR cont'd on page 5)



would it be possible for you to put a notice in the next Division News that I would like to hear from someone who could or would be interested in getting something started? Thank you for any help.

**EARL C. HARMeyer**, 1134 South 92nd Street, West Allis, WI 53214.

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I joined the 45th Division at Fort Devens, MA and was assigned to Company D, 179th Infantry. I accompanied the unit overseas and remained with them until disabled during the Italian campaign and spent the next year in the hospital. When the hospital released me I was assigned to Amarillo, TX AFB and then was medically discharged from there.

I still consider myself a combat infantryman. Long live the Thunderbird!!!!

**ALFRED H. WHITE**, 34 Gould Street, Wakefield, MA 01880.

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I was a member of Company B, 180th Infantry during the Korean War. I am a retired police sergeant who served with the Orange, NJ police department for 30 years. My service included time in the detective bureau, patrol division and was the department armorer and firearm instructor and was also attached to the Essex County Police Academy. I am currently Senior Vice commander of the West Orange VFW Post.

**FRANK A. AZZINARO**, 498 Joyce Street, Orange, NJ 07050.

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Enclosed are eleven applications for the Ranaahan Family's membership in the 45th Infantry Division Association. We all wish to become members if this is possible. My husband proudly served in the 45th Division from July 1942 thru November 1945.

In researching information about the 45th Division and in a very round about way I was able to contact Raul Trevino who was kind enough to send me an application which I xeroxed and furnished copies for all our ten children. They all have a great interest in World war II and particularly the 45th Infantry division.

My husband had hoped for some time to be able to attend a reunion, but due to his health problems this was never possible. He passed away last July and now some of our children and myself are planning to attend the reunion in August and would appreciate any information regarding this event.

**MRS JAMES (CLAIRE) RANAHAH**, 6 Grouse Street, Boston, MA 02132.

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I was member of Company I, 157th Infantry during World War II. On 29 April 1945 my company had been given orders to liberate the Dachau concentration camp. As we approached the camp we passed many freight cars filled with dead and dying people. When the two point men, John Degro and Mike McKlinsky found the gate secured, I ordered the lock destroyed by rifle fire. We were then able to enter the compound. We worked our way from the entrance gate to the prison camp yard and were ready to squash any resistance and protect the prisoners. When the prisoners saw us they were confused until they realized that they were being freed. other troops

came in right behind Company I to help secure the camp. We posted guards and spent the night. The next day we moved on to Munich.

**ROBERT L. WHITE**, 636 Eastgate Drive, Frankenmuth, MI 48734.

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I was a squad leader in the Third Platoon, Company K, 179th Infantry Regiment. I joined the unit 27 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead. In November 1944 I was severely wounded at Niedersoultebach, France and was discharged from the Army in November 1946 with 90% permanent disability.

I returned to college and graduated in 1949 with a degree in civil engineering. Worked for Union Carbide, Atlas Chemical Company and the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, TVA, Chattanooga, TN prior to retirement.

Have had several lengthy stays in VA hospitals for treatment of battle wounds, but I managed to have a productive work life in spite of my wounds. In retirement I am a Senior Scholar at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, working principally on foreign languages.

I have 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and am remarried to a widow with 7 children and 11 grand-children.

**GEORGE C. WILLIAMS JR.**, 1315 North Glen Drive, Hixson, TN 37343.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THUNDERBIRD DEATHS

**JACOB H. BROWN**, Fairland, OK, died February 1992 at Miami, OK.

Jake was a member of Headquarters Company, 179th Infantry during World War II and Korea and a member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard until his retirement from his civilian employment as a civil service employee.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WILLIAM E. COLEMAN**, Moore, OK, deceased 8 June 1992. Bill was a member of Headquarters Company, 45th Infantry Division during the Korean War. Subsequent to release from active duty in 1952 he was an employee of the Oklahoma Military Department. He was employed in various assignments culminating in becoming the Transportation Officer for the United States Property and Fiscal Office.

Awards and decorations include the Korean Service Medal with two campaign stars, United Nations Service Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Japan) and Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Subsequent to his retirement Bill became a volunteer for the 45th Division Association and Museum. Prior to becoming ill he served as Chairman of the Gift Shop Committee and also as the Gift Shop manager.

Survivors include his wife Myra, 1 daughter, 3 sons and 13 grandchildren.

\*\*\*\*\*

**EMIL HESSEL JR.**, Edwardsville, IL died December 1991 from complications of cancer. Emil was a member of 180th Infantry throughout World War II. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, three daughters, one son, eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

\*\*\*\*\*

(THUNDERBIRD DEATH cont'd on page 6)

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(THUNDERBIRD DEATHS cont'd from page 5)

**CLEMENT A. MILLER**, Hegins, PA, died January 1992 at the VA hospital in Lebanon, PA. He was a veteran of World War II and Korea. During WW II he was a member of Battery B, 171st Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Division.

Awards and decorations include the Silver Star, EAME campaign medal with 6 campaign stars and a bronze arrowhead depicting participation in amphibious landings.

In 1977 he made the trip to Europe to retrace the route of the 45th Division thru Italy and France. he made several reunions including 1991 although his health was failing.

Survivors include his wife Beatrice, two sons, one daughter and five grandchildren.

Beatrice wanted to thank everyone for all the good times they had at the reunions and that she appreciated all the volunteers who support the reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ELZA LEROY MOORE**, Sulphur, OK, deceased February 1992 at Arbutle Memorial Hospital following a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Elza served in the US marine Corps from 1947 to 1950, he was assigned to the 1st Marine Division and served in China. He then joined Heavy Mortar Company, 180th Infantry Regiment and was subsequently inducted with the 45th Division and served during the Korean War. He served in the National Guard and Army Reserve until retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was employed by the US Postal Service.

Survivors include his wife Pam, two daughters and four grandchildren.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NATHAN PLAPLAN**, New Port Richey, FL, died April 1992. He was a member of the 180th Infantry during World War II. He was a faithful attendee at annual reunions of the association and his wife Doris said he was already talking about attending this year. She said he was very proud of his association with the Thunderbird.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BOB R. REDDICK**, Fairfax, OK, deceased February 1992, was a member of the 145 AAA Bn during the Korean War. He was the owner of Osage Motor Company and was an avid sports fan and supported all sports activities in the Fairfax area.

Survivors include his wife Mabel and one daughter.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WALTER M. RENFRO**, Oak View, CA, deceased march 1992. Walter was inducted with the division in 1940 as a member of the 160th Field Artillery. He served throughout World War II and was discharged from the Army in July 1945. He reenlisted in December 1945 for another hitch.

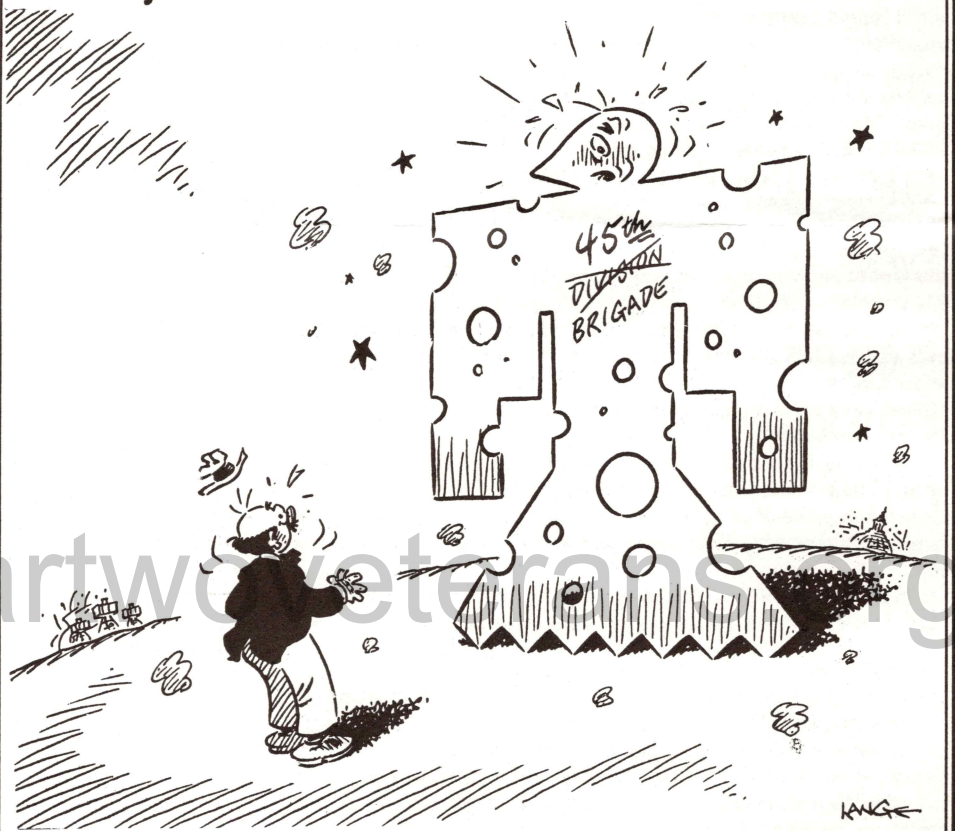
Walter was retired from the Poole Oil Production Company and spent a lot of time fishing at Lake Casita near Oak View CA.

Survivors include his wife Lennice, one step daughter, two step sons and a brother Jack of Sweet home, OR.

His sister-in-law advised of his death and said he was very proud of his service in the 45th Division and his Life membership in the association. She

(THUNDERBIRD DEATHS cont'd on backpage)

## Friendly Fire!



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NAME OF GROUP		45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION		THE DATES FOR THE MEETING ARE LISTED BELOW. ANY VARIATION IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.	
H HONORS #				ARRIVAL: AUGUST 17, 1992	
				DEPARTURE: AUGUST 23, 1992	
LAST NAME		FIRST		MIDDLE	
FIRM		ARRIVAL		DEPARTURE	
STREET		MONTH		MONTH	
CITY		DAY		DAY	
STATE		HOUR (IF LATER THAN 6:00 P.M.)		CREDIT CARDS	
ZIP CODE		NAME		NUMBER	
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# REGISTRATION APPLICATION FOR 47TH ANNUAL REUNION

COMPLETE AND MAIL TO: 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
2145 NE 36TH STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73111

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(INCLUDE CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE)

UNIT: WW II \_\_\_\_\_ KOREA \_\_\_\_\_ POST KOREA \_\_\_\_\_

GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST AND LAST NAMES)

CIRCLE APPLICABLE EVENTS AND AMOUNTS AND COMPLETE APPROPRIATE BLOCKS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CHARGE BASIS</u>	<u>PREPAID</u>	<u>PAYMENT AT DESK</u>	<u>AMOUNT DUE</u>
REGISTRATION	MEMBER	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00 _____
LADIES LUNCHEON	PERSON	5.00	5.00	\$ _____
FRIDAY	MEMBER	20.00	25.00	\$ _____
	GUEST	25.00	25.00	\$ _____
SATURDAY	MEMBER	25.00	30.00	\$ _____
	GUEST	25.00	30.00	\$ _____
TOTAL PREPAID				\$ _____

(ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER)

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PREPAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 11 AUGUST 1992 TO QUALIFY  
FOR PREPAYMENT RATES.

\*\*\*\*\*

## TRANSPORTATION REQUEST

I WILL BE ARRIVING IN OKLAHOMA CITY AT \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ AUGUST 1992

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)



(THUNDERBIRD DEATHS cont'd from page 6)

also sent a Roll of Honor of his unit to the museum. The Roll was prepared while we were at Camp Barkeley.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WALLACE TUTT**, Sardinia, OH, died in March 1992. He was a member of Company H, 179th Infantry during World War II. Wallace entered the service from Ezel, KY in 1943.

Awards and decorations include the Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, EAME Medal with five Campaign stars and a bronze arrowhead.

His wife Betty said they had visited the museum in 1986 and that he joined the association at that time. They had never been to a reunion, but that he was very proud to have been a thunderbird.

ter, ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DOUGLAS W. WAITE**, Watkins Glen, NY, deceased in March 1992 after an extended illness of nearly two years. He was a member of the 179th Infantry during World War II and received the following combat awards and decorations: Bronze Star, combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation with Germany clasp, EAME Medal with 7 campaign stars and a bronze arrowhead for four amphibious landings. He also received the Conspicuous Service Cross of NYS.

He retired from Shepard Niles Crane and Hoist Corporation after 41 years.

Survivors include his wife Lydia, one step daughter, tow grand-daughters and seven great-grandchildren.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DENNIS H. WILLIAMS**, Tulsa, OK deceased 9 May 1992. Dennis was a member of the 279th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War and

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.

**William R. Wilson Jr.,** ..... **President**

**Wm. Rex Wilson** ..... **Secretary/Editor**

**Louis A. Scott** ..... **Associate Editor**

**Eva Lou Moon** ..... **Volunteer Staff**

**Noma Jo Strickland** ..... **Volunteer Staff**

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

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\*\*\*\*\*

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

continued his service in the 45th Infantry Division subsequent to his release from active duty. He was a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Survivors include his wife Mary Patricia, four sons, four daughters, 17 grand-children and one great-grandchild.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STEVIE L. WILLIAMS**, Omaha, NE, deceased February 1992 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Stevie was a member of the 45th Infantry Division Band during the Korean War.

He was a member of the National Park Service and his friends in the Park Service served as pallbearers.

Survivors include his wife Louise, one son, one daughter and six grandchildren.

### LIFE MEMBERS

#### SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

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Robert A. Bean

N.A. Cotner  
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