

# 45th Division News

May, 1995

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

## THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS

### Jerome F. Sears



The U.S. Army Reserve building in Portland, Oregon, is named in honor of SFC Jerome F. Sears.

SFC Jerome F. Sears was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously for his heroic actions as a member of B Company, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, in Korea.

Jerome F. Sears was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, the son of Winthrop and Frances Sears. He was a big lad...6'3", 190 pounds, an athlete who played three years of varsity football at Clinton Kelly School of Commerce (now Cleveland High School). He also played tennis and swam for the Stenogs. In the summer he worked as a lifeguard at Gearhart, as a firefighter, and as a dog walker at Multhomah Kennel Club.

His sister, Roxie Sears Allen, recalls him as a very happy person who never met anyone he didn't like nor anyone who didn't like him. "My memories of him are happy ones---for the short time he lived, he crammed a lot of living in," she said. "It's always been a great consolation for me in that he chose the way he died. He chose to draw fire and save his men."

SFC Sears was a platoon sergeant in the First Platoon of B Company, when on June 8, 1952, the 180th was engaged in fighting on Old Baldy, one of many infamous battle arenas in Korea.

Norm Maves, Jr. writing in The (Portland) Oregonian, quoted from an article in that paper on June 29, 1952: "He (Sears) was 200 yards ahead of his own lines, acting as a forward observer, when the Chinese Communists did the unimaginable. They walked right at him through the smoke of their own creeping artillery barrage, firing their distinctive Russian burp guns as they came.

"First Platoon was knee-deep in it now. Sears howled out an order for this platoon to get the hell off the hill, but he didn't follow the soldiers. Instead, along with Corp. Elmer A. Scott of Nunica, Mich., he went sideways, firing his weapon as he went to draw fire on himself.

"It worked. Too well. The Chinese opened up on him. The last soldier to flee Old Baldy looked over his shoulder to see Sears and Scott, hopelessly outnumbered, fighting hand-to-hand."

The First Platoon regrouped, fixed bayonets and charged back up. After a murderous fight, the Chinese withdrew. First Platoon found Jerry Sears and Elmer Scott dead on the mountain.

The Distinguished Service Cross, second highest Army decoration, was pinned to the chest of his father, Winthrop, at a ceremony in Portland while his mother, Frances, and his sister, Roxie, looked on.

Maves wrote, "Jerry Sears would be 66 now if he hadn't decided to save those men on Old Baldy. Instead, he's a building at 27th and Multnomah, with a big white sign in front and a plaque at the entrance. Somehow, it seems so little for what he did.

"People still miss him, I hear. His sister misses him. His best friend misses him."

"And there's somebody else: Twice a year, the staff at the center (Army Reserve building) find a bouquet of flowers underneath the white sign. Nobody knows who puts them there."

Jerome F. Sears was a young 23 when he died a hero. He exemplified the true spirit of the Thunderbird. His devotion to duty, his heroism in battle, his sacrifice, embodies all the excellence of a dedicated soldier, one of many who helped make the 45th Infantry Division the outstanding unit that it was.

(Editor's note: Material for this Legend came from an article written by Norm Maves, Jr. that appeared in The Oregonian on January 12, 1995. It was sent to us by Gerald Cady of Yakima, WA, who had received it from Bill Walman. Mail will reach Norm Maves care of The Oregonian, 1320 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97201)

## COMBAT CHRONICLES

By Louis Scott

### WWII

The 45th Infantry Division, as part of the XV Corps of the Seventh Army, crossed into Germany on March 15, 1945, through the heavily mined and formidable SIEGFRIED LINE. After a saturation bombing in the area of ZWEIFRUCKEN and HOMBURG, the Division jumped off and entered Germany in the vicinity of SARREGUEMINES, NEUNKIRCH, and RIMLING. The 180th Infantry was on the left, the 157th on the right, with the 179th in reserve. The enemy was caught by surprise and difficulty mounting a defensive in an effort to stop the onrushing Thunderbirds. The Division Artillery laid down devastating time-on-target fire on enemy communications and facilities that shattered the German forces and prevented them from any attempt to stop the onslaught.

By daylight, 6 hours after the attack began, the Thunderbirds had penetrated the forward positions and were moving quickly toward the main line of German defense. The enemy had held these positions since the previous November, and had methodically improved and strengthened them and felt they were impenetrable. 45th Division troops went through and around these obstacles, killing and capturing many.

The awesome might of the Allied Armies was swiftly and decisively moving into the Fatherland and the weakened, but determined, German forces could not stop the avalanche.

The 157th Infantry Regiment ran into a fierce fire fight south of NIEDER-GAILBACH and was held up shortly. The 2d Battalion, 180th Infantry Regiment hit a determined German force at HABKIRCHEN, while the 3d Battalion advanced to their objective of ALLENBERG.

The 157th Infantry captured the towns of SEYWEILER and HOCHWALD. The 179th Infantry Regiment was committed to the center of the Division line, and attacked astride the BLIES RIVER, capturing WELSHEIM and a portion of GERSHEIM. The 180th took the towns of ERFWEILLER, BALLWEILLER, WECKLINGERN, WOLFERSHEIM, and RUBENHEIM. They overcame stiff resistance to take BEBELSHEIM, WITTERSHEIM, and Ehlingen.

The actual assault on the SEIGRIED LINE began on March 17

(COMBAT CHRONICLES cont'd on page 2)



**(COMBAT CHRONICLES cont'd from page 1)**

and cleared out a corridor along the BLIES River. The 180th was on the Division left, the 157th on the right, and the 179th in the center. The Thunderbirds broached the Westwall of the LINE that was considered impervious by the Germans.

The Division took so many prisoners and destroyed so much enemy material that they stopped trying to count it all. In five days of the campaign, 1,910 enemy prisoners were processed by the Division. On March 21, 2,055 prisoners were taken against light resistance.

The 179th Combat Team was motorized with the 189th FA, the 191st Tank Battalion, and a platoon of the 45th Cav Recon, and began a rush to the RHINE River while other units of the Division continued mopping up operations in the SAAR Basin.

The 3rd and 45th Divisions were selected to make the RHINE River crossing as spearhead of XV Corps. The 45th was supported by the 40th Engineer Combat Group, who constructed heavy pontoon rafts for the crossing.

Early on the morning of March 25, in a heavy fog that silhouetted the 3rd and 45th troops, the crossing of the RHINE was begun. The crossing forces met heavy enemy resistance from infantry and 88mm guns. But by dawn the Division had established a firm bridgehead and by dark had extended it to 104 square kilometers in size. The towns of KLIENHAUSEN and GERNSEIM were taken.

The Division had another large river to cross on March 28, the MAIN, which rivaled the RHINE crossing. Part of the Division crossed on a railroad bridge south of ASCHAFFENBURG that had been captured intact. Resistance was heavy in ASCHAFFENBURG where a disabled German Major armed all the civilian residents and set up barricades in the streets. A long siege set in to capture the town. This was the first of many towns where the Division was to meet stubborn resistance from German civilians, stirred by fanatical madness fanned by a decade of Nazi propaganda. Young boys, 16 and 17 years old, who had been thoroughly brainwashed to believe it was glorious to die for the Fatherland, died in their foxholes, refusing to surrender.

Realizing that the people of ASCHAFFENBURG would fight to the last person, due to the fanatical tyranny of the German Major, the 157th Infantry Regiment was left to reduce the town and the balance of the 45th Division moved eastward into the fortress of CENTRAL EUROPE. ASCHAFFENBURG was to become known to Thunderbird soldiers as "CASSINO-ON-THE-MAIN." Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson saluted the 45th Division for capturing this city of Nazi fanatics.

During 15 days of combat in March, 1945, the 45th Division had travelled over 180 kilometers into Germany, smashed through the SEIGFRIED LINE, made assault crossings of three major rivers, and taken over 10,000 prisoners, and killed or wounded over 33,000 of the enemy. They had captured over 3200 square kilometers of Germany territory against stubborn and fanatical German resistance.

The Division moved rapidly to the northeast, capturing many towns, much more territory, and severing enemy communications. The Division infantry encountered only scattered and disorganized resistance. Minor resistance came from civilians, but it was half-hearted and caused little damage. Most gave up without resistance.

The 179th Infantry captured Major General Franz, commander of the 256th Infantry Division, who was trying to make a valiant, last-ditch stand with only about 100 men who remained from the 10,000 in his division. It became not uncommon for high ranking German officers to seek out someone in the 45th to whom they could surrender. Such was the status of the great Wehrmacht armies in April, 1945.

The 45th Division made a great sweeping movement from

northeast to southeast and south. In so doing they moved further on the outside ring of Seventh Army, but was able to keep pace through great persistence and untiring effort.

BAMBERG, the huge rail center and marshalling yards, also had a commander like ASCHAFFENBURG, who was fanatical and who planned to hold the town at all costs. On April 13, the 180th Infantry attacked from the north, the 157th, reinforced by a battalion of the 179th, moved to the southeast and east toward the town. The fighting was fierce, but by 1230 that day, the fanatical resistance had petered out and the Thunderbirds occupied the town.

The cradle of Nazism and the Third Reich, NURNBERG, was the next large German city to come under siege by the 45th Division. Since the Germans had a few foot troops to stop the advancing Thunderbirds, they resorted to their small airforce to attack the Division columns. This was the largest amount of air activity encountered inside Germany. Intense ground fire was received in the approach to NURNBERG on April 17, when the envelopment of the city was completed. The three Division regiments attacked abreast at noon. Heavy resistance was received from the shattered city, almost all in ruins from our saturation bombings. That day a record number of 4,869 prisoners were taken, most were by the Division in a single day. The 180th Infantry liberated a Prisoner of War camp that held 250 American military.

House-to-house fighting was required to roust the fanatical enemy from the buildings. A significant capture was the infamous Luitpold Arena where Hitler had stood on the high marble platform, and hysterically ranted and raved at the frenzied crowds that "tomorrow Germany would rule the world."

On April 20, the city having been secured, the 45th Division troops moved out enroute to MUNICH, the capital of Bavaria. On April 27, successful crossing of the DANUBE River was completed.

DACHAU: What more can be said about this infamous and most horrendous of German concentration camps than already has been said, in triplicate? The camp WAS liberated by the 3d Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, under the command of then Lt. Col. Felix Sparks. Much has been said by other units to claim this great honor, but it just isn't so. History has proven that the 157th Infantry liberated it solely. End of DACHAU...close the book.

MUNICH was the last large bastion of the German Reich for the Americans to capture on May 1, 1945. The 45th Division was placed in charge of garrisoning this important city.

The War in Europe was over on May 8, 1945, ending the greatest, most devastating armed struggle between great nations in the history of the world.

After 511 days of combat, a record in the European Theater, the Thunderbirds could rest and think about going home to their loved ones, to peace, and to receive the honors and glory they so rightfully deserved and earned by sweat, toil, blood, sacrifice, and the loss of many good soldiers in their ranks. Never in the history of armed warfare has there been an outfit greater than the 45th Infantry Division "Thunderbirds." You guys earned the honor and you are to be saluted and glorified for your sacrifice.

## KOREA

January 1953: Throughout almost the entire month of January, the 45th Infantry Division was in X US Corps reserve, executing a training program and occupying blocking positions. On 22 January, Operation Plan BUCKSHOT was announced, directing the relief of the 40th Infantry Division by the 45th. Combat activity during the closing days of the month consisted of 2 small-scale patrol engagements.

February 1953: Division continued an active defense of its newly assigned portion of Line MINNESOTA (MLR). The 279th



RCT is on the left, the 180th RCT in the center, the 5th US RCT on the right, and the 179th RCT in reserve. 140th Tank Battalion provided armor support until 245th Tank Battalion returned to Division control on February 13.

Battle casualties for February-56.

March 1953: Division continued defense activities of its portion of Line MINNESOTA (MLR) in the center of X US Corps sector. Numerous small-scale and patrol actions highlighted the combat activity along the HEARTBREAK RIDGE, NO-NAME RIDGE, and SANDBAG CASTLE areas. On March 17, 279th Infantry was relieved by 224th Infantry (40th Div) and moved out for PW guard duty on KOJE-DO under KCOMZ attachment.

Battle casualties for March-76

April 1953: Division continued active defense along Line MINNESOTA (MLR) during the month.

There were numerous small-scale engagements along the HEARTBREAK RIDGE - NO-NAME RIDGE - SANDBAG CASTLE front during the period, highlighted by two attacks of company size against friendly positions.

Battle casualties for April-56.

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## HOLOCAUST MUSEUM COMMEMORATION

The Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2150 will honor the liberators of concentration camps during World War II at a commemoration on 8 May 1995, the 50th anniversary of the end of war in Europe.

The ceremony will honor veterans who freed thousands of survivors from Nazi oppression. This event will immediately precede the Department of Defense 50th anniversary ceremony which will take place at Arlington National Cemetery. The Holocaust Museum will provide buses to and from Arlington after their event.

BG Felix L. Sparks, Commanding Officer, Third Battalion, 157th Infantry during the liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp, will be a speaker at the Holocaust Museum ceremony.

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## MUSEUM SPECIAL EXHIBIT, "THE HOLOCAUST"

A new exhibit has been established in the "Special Exhibit" area of the 45th Division Museum. The new exhibit features "THE HOLOCAUST" in particular the "Dachau" Concentration Camp located near Munich, Germany which was liberated by Third Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division.

The exhibit includes written documentation of the liberation, artifacts from the camp, Nazi items including a flag removed from Dachau, photographs and drawings by inmates depicting life in the camp and enlarged pages of a monograph by Felix L. Sparks detailing incidents and activities of Third Battalion, 157th Infantry during the liberation process. The monograph contains details of other claimants to the liberation of Dachau.

The "Holocaust" exhibit is currently available for viewing and will remain open until early 1996.

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## MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

A memorial day ceremony will be conducted at the 45th Infantry Division Museum on 29 May 1995. Since the Korean War Memorial will be dedicated during July this year, this year's commemoration will focus on the Korean War era.

State Senator Bill Gustafson has agreed to serve as Master of Ceremonies. MG Fred Daugherty has been invited to be the Key-Note Speaker. The Del City High School Del Aires, a group that has won many international awards and recently performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City has been invited to present a

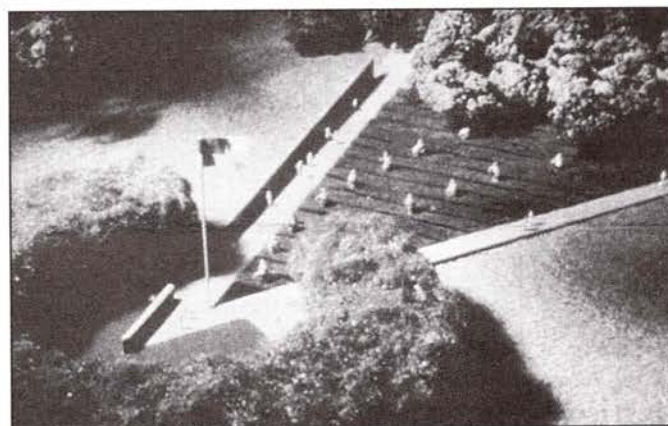
melody of patriotic songs. The 145th Army band will participate as well as the Governor's Honor Guard and Color Guards from the 45th Infantry Brigade, 45th FA Brigade, 90th Troop Command, and from several local military and civilian groups.

Distinguished guests will include, Governor Keating, The Adjutant General and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Refreshments will be served and the 45th Infantry Museum will be open for viewing at the conclusion of the ceremony.

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## Korean War Veterans Memorial Dedication Plans Announced



From July 26-29, 1995, the attention of the nation and the world will focus on Washington, D.C. There, 19 American ground troops will emerge from the protection of woods into potential enemy fire. The troopers are statues, but the courage they express will be very real to thousands of Korean War veterans expected to attend the Dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

For the first time since they served more than 40 years ago, America's 5.7 million Korean War era veterans and those from 21 other nations who served in the United Nations force in Korea, will be honored with a national memorial.

The Memorial lies in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial and, along with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, completes the west end of the mall. It consists of 19 larger-than-life troopers on a bitter, cold, windswept patrol. They march toward an American flag, which symbolizes the goal of liberty and justice of all.

The faces of more than 2,400 support personnel look on, gazing from a 164 ft. black granite wall, where they are softly etched into a mural. Beyond the flag lies the "Pool of Remembrance," a contemplative 70 ft. wide, tree-shaded pool commemorating those who were killed, still listed as Missing in Action, captured and wounded.

With construction well underway, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, will be dedicated July 27, 1995 during four days of activities and events.

"Our dignified celebration plans call for the highest military and civilian honor America can bestow, but with events unique to the Korean War experience," General Raymond G. Davis, USMC (Ret), Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board, said in describing the Dedication plans. More than 500,000 people are expected to attend Dedication events.

Along with the Dedication ceremony itself, plans are underway for a colorful Mass Muster with Service Color Guards attended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Memorial services and veteran-sponsored reunions will take place throughout the week.

A huge collection of displays and gatherings called Pusan Tent

*(Korean War Veterans Memorial cont'd on page 4)*



City will be featured on the Mall including tents from veteran's organizations and government agencies, memorabilia sales, a mess tent, embassy tents and a reception area.

There will also be a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a memorial ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, a parade down Constitution Avenue, fireworks on the Potomac, a Joint Presidential Salute at the Kennedy Center (confirmation pending) and other patriotic events and activities on the Mall in the Nation's Capital.

At the invitation of President Clinton, President Kim Young Sam of the Republic of Korea will combine an official visit with his participation in Dedication activities. Both Presidents have been invited to attend a number of ceremonies.

In addition to Korea, the twenty other countries who participated in the original United Nations multinational force, have also been asked to participate and are expected to send troops and diplomatic representatives.

Giant TV screens will be strategically placed on the Mall to maximize veterans' viewing of the ceremonies.

(Editors Note): There are several units/organizations of the 45th Division planning to attend the Korean War Memorial dedication both as individuals and as units. The Division Colors will be present and will participate in musters and other planned activities.)

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## LADY THUNDERBIRDS

We are again planning a "Breakfast Buffet" during the annual reunion, 21 thru 24 September 1995. According to last year's survey the breakfast won by nine votes. By having a late breakfast it allows those of you who wish to attend the memorial service to do so, as well as getting you out early enough for an afternoon of shopping. The Ladies Breakfast will be held in the Palomino/Quarter Horse rooms at the Radisson Hotel beginning at 10:00 AM, Saturday, 23 September 1995.

Due to the overwhelming success of last years entertainment, we have invited Edmond North High School's show choir, "Northern Lights" back. However, this time we will be entertained by the young men of "Northern Lights".

Something new for those of you who enjoy the annual craft exchange. The Oklahoma National Guard Auxiliary will have inexpensive craft items available for purchase Friday afternoon, 22 September 1995. Proceeds will go to their scholarship fund. The survey results on the craft exchange was 106 in favor and 33 against.

To add a special touch to the door prizes this year we will be giving away a seasonal craft item for each month of the year. I am sure it is no surprise that the Door Prizes won 144 to 2.

Look for the Lady Thunderbirds Article next issue for any updates or possible changes.

Anyone who has any questions or suggestions, please feel free to write or call Debra Campbell, 13913 Jeffrey Drive, Edmond, OK 73013, 405/478-3618.

Transportation will be available for shopping and tours as required.

Look forward to September!!!  
Debra Campbell

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## ANATOMY OF A REUNION

By: Bob Lamm

In 1993, eight Company F, 179th Infantry T-Birds (Korean era) attended the annual reunion of the 45th Division Association. It was the first time for most of us. The camaraderie and good feeling seeing old friends was such that, by the time we parted on Sunday, we had decided that an effort needed to be made to have a full blown F Company reunion in 1994.

We needed a leader, so Fred Daugherty helped us locate our former Company Commander, Frank Garrison, now living in Florida. With Frank on board, we took a look at our resources, we had about fifteen names and addresses and a company roster compiled in 1952.

Some of our group proved easy to locate. They, in return, were able to give us more names and addresses. Former third platoon John Pope did a lot of research using the out-of-town phone books at the public library. His efforts there furnished leads that accounted for at least 20 names and addresses. We had help from many others too numerous to mention. In general, those who were from the smaller towns were easiest to locate. If we didn't find the person we were looking for, we quite often found a brother or cousin who could help us. It really helped to have a computer to aid in managing our growing address list.

With a little hard work, we eventually ended up with about 100 names and current addresses. Forty of us made it to the 45th Association Reunion in September 1994. Our total attendance, including wives and other guests, was about eighty.

Was our reunion worth all the effort? You bet!! Every unit should have one. Would we do it all over again? Sure--in fact we're planning an even bigger reunion in '95. A big "thank you" is due the 45th Division Association. Going from "zero to full blown reunion" in nine months would have been difficult, if not impossible, if we had not been able to rely on the facilities and services provided by the association at their annual gathering.

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## REUNION HOSPITALITY ROOMS

The following policy has been established on a "PERMANENT" basis concerning assignment of "Hospitality" rooms (CP's) during annual reunions.

Hospitality rooms listed below are assigned on a permanent basis and will be available to assigned organizations without action by their personnel, except for checking out the room upon arrival at the Radisson Inn:

ROOM#	ASSIGNED ORGANIZATION(S)
403	45th Division Association, Division HQ HQ 45th Infantry Brigade, HQ STARC
404	Troop Command, Special Troops, Engineers, MP, Ordnance, Medics, QM, Signal and Reconnaissance Troop/Company
615	179th Infantry
101	180th Infantry
102	279th Infantry
201	Division Artillery, 158 FA, 160 FA, 171 FA, 189 FA, 145 AAA

Other hospitality rooms may be rented from the hotel on a first come, first served basis. All reservations for these rooms must be made with Betty Ramsey in the Sales Department, telephone (405)947-7681.

Assigned hospitality rooms will be required to remain open during hours specified by the Reunion Committee and an assortment of refreshments provided for visitors. Organizations will be responsible for all charges made to the assigned room and the cost of any adjoining rooms used for storage or staff quarters.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I would like to meet or correspond with anyone who may remember my father, Sergeant Eugene K. Tabor. He served in Company K, 179th Infantry during World War II. He was wounded 11 July 1943 during the invasion of Sicily. HE was shot in the back of the head by a German sniper during the capture of an enemy airfield (probably Comiso).

According to his medical records, he walked unassisted to an aid station then was placed on a hospital ship bound for North Africa. His most distinguishing physical characteristic was his pale blond hair.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who served in Company K, or the Third Battalion, 179th Infantry during this same time frame. I would especially like to hear from anyone who knew or remembers my father.

**Bernadett Tabor Pruitt, 1640 E. 17th Street, Tulsa, OK 74120.**

★★★★★★★★

It took me 50 years, but I finally found a person who served in Company H, 180th Infantry.

My wife and I moved into a new apartment and our next door neighbor is Leonard Porges and his wife Nancy. While in conversation, to my amazement I found someone not only in the 45th Division, but in the same company. It is like a million to one shot.

Len was wounded at Anzio and I was wounded in France. If anyone is still alive and would like to write us, the address is:

**Len Porges/Nathan Berman, 210 Old Oak Drive, Apt #160, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.**

★★★★★★★★

This letter is in regard to our discussion on the phone about interviewing a veteran. I am not an author, I am doing family research. My mother died after she came to America. My children are very interested in our family history.

My mother was in a forced labor camp in Lauf, Germany which was liberated by the 45th Infantry Division. Lauf is located near Nuremburg. For some reason she was admitted to a hospital in that area, after recovery, she got a job working in the hospital.

She told me some stories about the time and the people, however, I need more information. I was hoping that you have a veteran's publication and could print my story. Maybe a veteran who was there could furnish additional information about the forced labor camp by letter or telephone.

It doesn't matter if they knew my mother or not. I hope you find it in your heart to help me, as this is very important to me. If you print my story, you may include my address and phone number.

**Neil Drengacz, 761 West Stearns Road, Bartlett, IL 60103, 708/289-2727.**

★★★★★★★★

I served with the 160th FA BN from 8 January 1942 until the end of the war. I am very pleased to have been a member of the 45th Division. I know most of my former friends are now gone. I have never been to any of the reunions, but hope to some time.

I have been to the museum and enjoyed it very much. I served with Nash, Bill Kumpy, Leland Carver, Logan, our Captain was John Turner.

**William R. Custer, 1533 Edgewood Drive #5, Lima, OH 45805-1044.**

★★★★★★★★

I started with the names of eight WWII buddies from the 171st FA BN. Our first reunion in 1988 consisted of six members and four wives. I count it a great privilege and labor of love to listen to: talk to: and report to: 80 active members, of whom 1/3 are physically unable to attend reunions. Our quarterly letter, ten pages typed on both sides, keeps each member abreast of social calendar of events, doctor, hospital and an occasional cruise or mountain retreat.

It seems such a shame I was not motivated years ago because we are all on the 70 plus side now and it behooves each member of the 45th to join us at the 50th Annual Reunion 21-24 September 1995.

**Carl E. Blue, 718 Ruprecht, St. Louis, MO 63125, 314/631-5778.**

★★★★★★★★

I enjoy the 45th Newsletter very much. The last reunion I attended was in 1987, about 2 years before J.O. Smith passed away. When I left home

to go to the reunion I didn't think I would see many friends after so long a time (about 45 years). I told my wife that even though I didn't expect to see many of the guys, it would be worth the trip if I could get to see my old Captain J.O. Smith. Believe me, when I walked into the hotel room, J.O. Smith was the first one I saw. He looked at me, called my name, like we hadn't seen each other in a year or so. We had a nice time reminiscing and he gave me a copy of the 1942 Christmas dinner menu from Pine Camp, NY. The menu included the names of everyone in the company. J.O. Smith was a fine man and a "great soldier".

**Raymond J. DeNatale, Sr, 8 Dewey Place, Bay Shore, NY 11706.**

★★★★★★★★

I served with Battery B, 145th AAA AW BN, first as an "M-16" Platoon Leader, later as Battery Commander, and finally as Battalion S-2. I arrived at the MLR in support of the 7th ROK, later the 20th ROK in March 1953 and returned home in late December 1953.

I have included copies of citations from the Commanding Generals of the 7th and 20th ROK Division pertaining to my unit.

**Ray Kalil, 603 Thompson Lane, Nashville, TN 37204.**

★★★★★★★★

During the fall of 1994 my wife and I made a 21 day tour of Sicily and Italy. It was an interesting experience to see Italy in living color. My memories are all in black and white. The beaches in Sicily were all off limits. It is now a military training area.

Salerno is a busy traffic laden town. Our tour did not take us to the Venafrò area, but we did see Cassino and the rebuilt Abby. We spent a few days in Rome and set aside a special day for a visit to Anzio/Nettuno. The American cemetery is in Nettuno and the British cemetery is in Anzio. Walking the beaches there created an erie feeling. The American Cemetery is beautiful, well maintained, and certainly tugs at your heartstrings. Enclosed are copies of two post cards I purchased at Nettuno.

The trip helped exorcise a few ghosts.

**Roger W. Knight, 168 West Mountain Road, West Simsbury, CT 06092.**

★★★★★★★★

I am former Private First Class John P. Lee, Company I, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division. After forty years in management in the Steel Industry, I am now retired and living in Lewes, Delaware.

I was one of the first group of men from Company I to enter Dachau. I am the BAR man in the attached photograph of the "WALL" behind the hospital. Have appeared in a documentary made by a California group and one made by "TV Asahi" a Japanese Television Company.

My former Company Commander, Lieutenant William Walsh and I were invited to the dedication of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC on 22 April 1993. The day before, a tribute to the liberators was held at the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheatre. I plan to attend a ceremony honoring "Liberators" on 8-9 May 1995 at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC.

**John P. Lee, 2 Henlopen Court, Lewes, DE 19958-1768.**

★★★★★★★★

I joined Company C, 157th Infantry Regiment in January 1945 as a Staff Sergeant with about three months combat experience in a 103rd Division rifle platoon with whom I had gone overseas. I was one of a group of NCO's pulled from several combat experienced outfits to re-staff Company C. Which had been completely lost. The only Sergeant in our platoon not killed or wounded in the Siegfried Line, I was promoted to Technical Sergeant, my rank at discharge.

I just became aware of the association when I received a call from Dan Dougherty, a comrade in arms, whom I had not heard from for nearly fifty years. I am pleased to learn of the organization and hope to make the opportunity to attend future conventions.

I look forward to hearing from your with information on any printed material concerning the 157th, the 45th and also Dachau.

**Benjamin E. Ewing, Jr, 272 Applewood Lane, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-1100, 810-334-6872.**



REGISTRATION FOR 50TH ANNUAL REUNION

(21-24 SEPTEMBER 1995)

COMPLETE AND MAIL TO: 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
2145 NE 36TH STREET, OKC, 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>BASIS</u>	<u>PREPAID</u>	<u>PAYMENT AT DESK</u>	<u>AMOUNT DUE</u>
REGISTRATION	MEMBER	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
LADIES BREAKFAST BUFFET	PERSON	10.00	10.00	\$
FRIDAY (DINNER)	PERSON	20.00	25.00	\$
SATURDAY (BANQUET)	PERSON	20.00	25.00	\$
TOTAL PREPAID-----				\$
(ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER)				
TOTAL DUE AT DESK				\$

PREPAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 12 SEPTEMBER 1995  
TO QUALIFY FOR PREPAYMENT RATES.

\*\*\*\*\*

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST

I WILL BE ARRIVING IN OKLAHOMA CITY AT \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ SEPTEMBER  
1995 ON \_\_\_\_\_ AIRLINES, FLIGHT # \_\_\_\_\_. THERE WILL BE  
\_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS IN MY PARTY REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION TO THE MOTEL.

RETURN FLIGHT

MY RETURN FLIGHT DEPARTS AT \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ SEPTEMBER 1995.

I WANT TO LEAVE THE MOTEL AT \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS FROM (CIRCLE ONE) Room # \_\_\_\_\_  
LOBBY\*\*\*\*\*TRANSPORTATION ROOM # 427.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME-----PLEASE PRINT)



401 SOUTH MERIDIAN AVENUE • OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73108

To assist us in processing your reservation please provide all requested information. Should you wish your reservation guaranteed for late arrival, after 6:00PM, an advance payment guarantee of the first night's room and tax is required. This advance payment guarantee may be made by check or money order, or by providing the entire number of one of the following major credit cards: AMERICAN EXPRESS, DINERS CLUB, VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CARTE BLANCHE, ENROUTE, JCB, OR MÖVENPICK. Do not forget to provide the card's expiration date and the signature of the card holder.

Advance payment guarantees will be refunded only if a reservation cancellation notification is received by 4:00PM on the scheduled day of arrival.

NOTE: If rooms are not available at the rate requested your reservation will be made at the nearest available rate. Check-out time is 12NOON, Check-in time is 3:00PM. All reservation requests must be received at least two weeks prior to arrival. Please allow ten working days for confirmation of your reservations.

Please notify us if you require any special accommodations or services.

CALL: 405-947-7681 OR TOLL-FREE: 800-333-3333 • 800-522-6620 (OK ONLY)

(PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN LOWER HALF)

CHECK-IN TIME 3:00 PM  
CHECK-OUT TIME 12:00 NOON

Name of Meeting: 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION

Name of Group: 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Official Dates: 9/21 - 9/24/95

Last day reservations may be  
accepted at special group rate: 9/14/95

PLEASE PRINT

Name Worldwartwoveterans.org

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Indicate: ☐ Home ☐ Business

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Credit Card
Number
Expiration Date
Signature
<input type="checkbox"/> Check or Money order enclosed
Amount \$

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK TYPE OF ROOM DESIRED

SINGLE - 1 PERSON ☐ \$48.00

DOUBLE - 2 PERSONS ☐ \$48.00

TRIPLE - 3 PERSONS ☐ \$48.00

QUAD - 4 PERSONS ☐ \$48.00

PARLORS & SUITES RESERVED UPON REQUEST, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY-PLEASE CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT. ROLLAWAY BED IN ROOM \$10.00 PER NIGHT, CRIBS-FREE, UPON AVAILABILITY. CHILDREN 16 AND UNDER ARE FREE IN SAME ROOM WITH PARENTS.

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

PLEASE LIST NAMES OF THOSE SHARING ROOM:

1. _____	Arrive _____	Depart _____
2. _____	Arrive _____	Depart _____
3. _____	Arrive _____	Depart _____



### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to be a member of the 45th Infantry Division Association. I enclose my dues for:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 for a Life Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 for a 10-year Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 for a 4-year Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00 for a 1- year Membership

SEND TO:  
45th Infantry Division Association  
2145 NE 36th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Your Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street or P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Former or Present Thunderbird Unit \_\_\_\_\_

World War II \_\_\_\_\_ Korean War \_\_\_\_\_ Post Korean War \_\_\_\_\_

(SPECIAL NOTE: Your are invited to submit a paragraph of current information or news item about yourself or another former or present Thunderbird for possible use in 45th Division News. Please submit it on a separate sheet of paper identifying each person mentioned by present location and former Thunderbird unit.)

cut here





# "THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER"

If your mailing label indicates "EXP 1994", the above heading pertains to you. This indicates your dues to the 45th Division Association expired on 31 December 1994. As of 30 April 1995 there were 420 members in this category.

**IF THESE MEMBERS DO NOT PAY THEIR DUES PRIOR TO 30 JUNE 1995, THEY WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ROLLS. PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN.**

Payment of multiple year dues reduces the workload for our volunteers in the out years and also reduces your per year cost as indicated on the membership application which has been included in this Newsletter for your convenience.

**LET'S KEEP THE THUNDERBIRD ALIVE.**

## 45th Divi sion News

Published four times yearly by the 45th Infantry Division Association to support the work of the association and the 45th Division Museum.

**Michael T. Jackson** ..... **President**

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**Neal E. Dodds** ..... **Treasurer**  
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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!**

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

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

### MEMBERSHIPS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER LIFE

Bowman, James B.  
Foster, Don Lionel

Frantz, John R.  
Harris, James B.

Hill, William F.  
Wakeland, Donald E.

### TEN YEAR

Butler, Elbert Merwin  
Bolton, Theron J. (Tuck)  
Bray, George F.  
Brendenbach, R.T. (Dick)  
Courtney, Mel  
Desper, Johnny M.  
Fowler, Oscar U.  
Holland, Fount  
Jack, Clyde L.

Kupsche, Raymond  
Lange, Donald E.  
Lewis, Donald D.  
Mellin, Carl V.  
Mullins, James P.  
Muse, George V.  
O'Kane, Clifford V.  
Patterson, Joseph A.  
Rice, Winston P.

Robblee, James W.  
Robison, Darrell B.  
Rogers, Andrew D.  
Rogers, Robert L.  
Romano, Joseph I.  
Tedder, Thomas H., Jr.  
Wirt, Douglas K.  
Wright, Jimmie E.

### FOUR YEAR

Akers, Thomas E.  
Alcorn, Cyril J.  
Alexander, Louis  
Alexander, Myron L.  
Alvarez, John  
Anderson, Paul C.  
Arthur, Loren L.  
Balducci, Alfred A.  
Barlow, William H.  
Beckers, Joseph Henry  
Belmar, Jack A.  
Bentley, Ken  
Benton, Sherman L., Jr.  
Birch, Kenneth A.  
Bishop, James W.  
Blue, Carl E.  
Bonsell, James C.  
Bowen, Norman C. (DOC)  
Boyer, Frank M.  
Bradshaw, Edgar J.  
Brown, Horace G., Jr.  
Broz, Frank W.  
Cannon, William A.  
Carmichael, Robert K.  
Catterall, Logan V.  
Chaulk, John A.  
Chewning, Allen R.  
Colegrove, Leroy G.  
Cornish, Jack R.  
Costelloe, Joseph P., Jr.  
Craig, Leslie L.  
Cultrera, Joseph R.  
Dundiff, Ellsworth  
Dundiff, Paul A.  
Custer, William R.  
Dalphonse, Carmen  
Davis, Louis Wayne  
De Natale, Raymond J.  
Drummond, Philip M.  
Duerst, Eugene H.  
Duey, Douglas D.  
Easley, Everett W.  
Edge, Charles

Everts, Horace T.  
Ewing, B.E.  
Farmer, Billy W.  
Ferdon, Richard J.  
Fluger, George C.  
Fuernstein, Howard  
Gardzina, Stanislaw  
Gavin, Edward J.  
Glover, Charles W.  
Gordon, John T.  
Gorman, Patrick J.  
Graves, Elmer L.  
Gray, Bobby J.  
Green, Bobby G.  
Gutknecht, Roland C.  
Halpern, Jerry  
Harbert, Jerrell D.  
Harper, Charles W.  
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Helms, Duane J.  
Henry, Gary W.  
Hess, Leonard G.  
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Hoffman, Elmer  
Hope, James G.  
Horn, Lester R.  
Horton, Leon D.  
Ingram, Don L.  
Jansen, Gilbert L.  
Jay, Walter E.  
Johnson, Jess K.  
Jones, Clayton  
Karseter, Thomas R.  
Katterhenry, Calvin H.  
Kelch, Harry R.  
Koenen, Leonard  
LaGrande, Louis T.  
Lambert, Burton William  
Lambert, Harry P.  
Lamm, Bob  
Lane, John R.  
Lee, John P.  
Leiding, Donald R.

Lindsay, James M.  
Lovell, Troy  
Lynch, Robert H.  
Marinacci, Ralph A.  
Marks, George W.  
Marshall, John E.  
Martin, Billy G.  
Martin, Joe G.  
Martin, K.D.  
McClure, Van M.  
Mead, Burton C.  
Meister, Alfred L.  
Mendez, Warren  
Merrill, Edwin F.  
Meyer, Frank T.  
Mickelson, Gerald W.  
Miller, Lowell P.  
Moore, George A.  
Morea, Joseph A.  
Moreland, Benjamin A.  
Morey, Paul L.  
Morgia, James  
Morrell, Joseph  
Moyer, Eugene A.  
Nagel, Arthur G.  
Neary, William M.  
Nigro, Joseph B.  
Nesbit, George A., Jr.  
Oelkers, William  
Olson, L.N.  
Ostwald, Richard E.  
Palmer, Dixon  
Peabody, Robert M.  
Peterson, Frederick J.  
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Pierce, Bobby G.  
Pigg, E.E. (Gehe)  
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Simpson, Ray M.  
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Slagle, Richard  
Smith, Roland W.  
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Speas, James R.  
Stangl, Patrick O.  
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Vitone, Ambrogio  
Ver Vooren, Donald  
Voghel, Theodore H., Jr.  
Wallace, Kendall W.  
Wegener, Edward C.  
Weldon, Rainey  
Wells, Jerome  
Wells, Walter S.  
Wentworth, Malcolm G.  
Wienke, Fred A.  
Wiget, B. J.  
Williams, Francis W.  
Wilson, Jesse Richard  
Winter, Joseph F.  
Wright, Ralph M.  
Young, Don M.

### TAPS

Anderson, Howard R.  
Blakey, Albert  
Bowers, Reginald C. "Jack"  
Butler, Herman J.  
Candleana, Paul J.  
Clark, Ray S.  
Davis, Kenneth  
Deberry, Virgil G., Sr.

Durino, Dan J.  
Fitzgerald, Andrew  
Garner, Lloyd  
Kaine, John W.  
Klein, Earl  
Livek, Edward J.  
McConathy, Edward W.  
McLaughlin, Andrew

McPherran, John M.  
Meyers, Chester W.  
Miles, John B.  
Morrison, George H.  
O'Brien, George J.  
Pfeffer, Joseph R.  
Porter, Floyd C.  
Riggenberg, Bill C.

Russell, Kenneth W.  
Sandefer, James L.  
Schwarz, Joseph F.  
Vanwaldick, Robert L.  
Wilder, Webster, Jr.  
Wilson, William Lee

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