

45th Division News

October 1988

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we begin a new year for the famed 45th Infantry Division Association, it is my distinct honor to serve as your President. The success of the 43rd annual reunion set the standards for us to all contribute to insure the same during the next year.

I will challenge the Board of Directors to continue to improve the current status of the Association. Your ideas and suggestions are very important to me and the Board of Directors. I would encourage you to send those ideas to us throughout the coming year.

Membership is the life blood of any organization as it is with the 45th Infantry Division Association. I ask for your support in encouraging any individual that belonged to the 45th Infantry Division that is not a member to join this year.

Your Board of Directors are at the present time beginning preparations for the 44th Annual Reunion. I look forward to serving as YOUR President during the next Year.

Sincerely,

DALE E. CARNEY
National President
45th Infantry Division Association

THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS

HAL LOWNDES MULDROW, JR.



Hal Muldrow was born in Tishomingo, Oklahoma 31 May 1905. He married Clara Mae Bell in 1929. While attending High School in Norman, Oklahoma he lettered in both basketball and football.

Muldrow graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1928 with a BS degree in Business. His military education included the Field Artillery Battery Officers' Course and the Advanced Officers' Course at the United States Army Field Artillery Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was also a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

He was a member of the University of Oklahoma Athletic Council, "O" Club, Masons (33rd degree), Shriner and past president of the Norman, Oklahoma Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce.

Upon graduation from the University of Oklahoma, Muldrow was appointed Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery and assigned to the Officers Reserve Corps. On 25 March 1929 he was transferred to the Oklahoma National Guard and assigned to Headquarters 70th Field Artillery Brigade. Promotion to First Lieutenant and assignment as Intelligence Officer occurred 1 August 1930. He was promoted to Captain 2 May 1937 and Major 1 August 1940 retaining his assignment as Plans and Training Officer, 70th FA Brigade. Promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and assignment as Executive Officer 189th Field Artillery occurred 14 September 1940 just prior to induction into Federal Service with the 45th Infantry Division.

When the 45th Division was reorganized in February 1942, Muldrow was assigned as Commanding Officer, 189th Field Artillery. He served in this capacity throughout World War II.

Reorganization of the Oklahoma National Guard in 1946 resulted in his appointment as a Brigadier General and assignment as Commanding General, 45th Division Artillery. He served in this capacity until the 45th Division was inducted into Federal Service in August 1950. He continued to serve as Division Artillery Commander while the division was stationed at Camp Polk, Louisiana, on the island of Hokkaido, Japan and during combat in the Korean War. He was released from Active Duty in June 1952.

He returned to duty in the National Guard in Oklahoma on 7 June 1952. Upon reorganization of the 45th Infantry Division 11 September 1952 he was assigned as Commanding General, 45th Infantry Division. Promotion to Major General occurred 15 October 1952. Muldrow served as Commanding General, 45th Infantry Division during the period 11 September 1952-31 August 1960 when he voluntarily retired from the Oklahoma National Guard.

Muldrow's civilian endeavors included Director of Athletics and Coach, Norman High School, Norman, Oklahoma five years, owner of Insurance Agency, 1932-1983, and State Senator 1962-1966.

Military combat actions included eight campaigns in World War II and three in Korea. Military Decorations and Awards include the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Major General Hal L. Muldrow, Jr. died in 1983 and was interred with full military honors at Norman, Oklahoma.

REUNION RECAP

The 43rd Annual Reunion held at the Hilton Inn West, Oklahoma City, 25-26 August, was well attended by "Old Timer" Thunderbirds. Several World War II and Korean War Veterans attended for the first time. This is proof positive of a good recruiting effort by many association members. Friday night activities were attended by over 500 members and guests, Saturday night more than 600 were in attendance.

Ladies activities included a tour of the State Capitol and Remington Park, the new race track scheduled to open 1 September 1988. The luncheon was held in the Star Room at the Lincoln Plaza Hotel. 175 ladies attended the tour and luncheon. Congratulations to Carolyn Moses and Lois Batey co-hosts for the ladies activities.

Guest speaker for the banquet was Major General James W. Wurman, a former thunderbird. General Wurman's father was a member of the 189th Field Artillery Battalion when the division was mobilized in September 1940 prior to World War II. Wurman enlisted in Company A, 179th Infantry in 1955. He was later commissioned and applied for active duty. He was accepted and will complete 35 years of commissioned service in 1991. General Wurman made an inspiring speech appropriate for the occasion.

During the banquet, a painting of Jack C. Montgomery (180th Infantry), a Thunderbird Congressional Medal of Honor winner in World War II, by Brummett Echohawk (Company B 179th Infantry WWII) a Tulsa, Oklahoma artist, was unveiled and donated to the museum. The painting was accepted on behalf of the museum by Fred Daugherty, Chairman Emeritus of the museum Board of Directors.

The dance following the banquet was well attended. Music was provided by "Moonlight Serenade". "Forties" music is well understood.

The 44th Annual Reunion will be held 25-26 August 1989 at the Hilton Inn West, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK.

LOST JEWELRY

Lost at 45th Reunion, Hilton Inn, Oklahoma City, Saturday 27 August, 1988. Ladies Gold Nugget Bracelet - **Reward**. If found contact Echo Wilson, 2721 NW 37 Street, Oklahoma City, OK. Telephone-405/946-0417.

MUSEUM EQUIPMENT NEEDS

The Northwest members of Hq Co, 1st Bn, 180th RCT of Korean action held their reunion on September 16-17, 1988 in Depot Bay, OR. Information was received too late for notice to appear in the Newsletter. For information on this organization and its reunion, contact Al Boese, 15921 SE Alpenglade Ct, Milwankie, OR 97267. (503) 659-6255.

Any other artifacts veterans of the Armed Forces have brought home from any of the wars will be gladly accepted by the Museum.

Howard Fuernstein, 10578 West Road, Harrison, OH 45030 of Hq Co., 2nd Bn., 180th Infantry wants to contact **Marcos Martinez** of the 179th Infantry, who was separated in Africa.

Tim furnished a used Thunderbird Shoulder Patch (new not accepted) to a German Military Museum in Sinsheim, Germany for display. The patch he presented to the museum was the original insignia issued to him upon assignment to the division in Pastenum, Italy immediately following the Salerno Invasion.

Company G 180th Infantry or 180th Infantry Regiment.
For reunion information, contact Raul Trevino, 7791 Woodchase,
Apt. 1215, San Antonio, TX 78240. (512) 681-9134.



THUNDERBIRDS REUNITED

Joseph B. Pavlik, 1738 Pierce St., Hollywood, FL 33020

★LIFE MEMBERS★ SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Charles G. Allen	Frederick Heierding
Maxie Cleburn	James E. Hildebrand
Granville Cubage	Donald C. Keaton
Alexander E. Duckworth	James "Buddy" Ryan
Jason E. Duckworth	Francis M. Trotter
Norman E. Duckworth	Carl D. Wallace
Eric A. Hanson	

★NEW MEMBERS★ SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

10 Year	Fred R. Marrs
4 Year	
William Barz	Charles Marchaud
James S. Bates	Emil Mastny
William J. Bomer	Wayne O. McAtee
Richard P. Crotty	Bill Metcalf
Adam R. Dixon	John C. Neimeyer, Jr.
Fred J. Flegel	Gilbert Schoenfelder
Edwin J. Glatkowski	Fred Sibley
William E. Haslegacher	Lee Smith
John C. Henry	Thomas P. Tiernan
William L. Hindman	William C. Upshaw, Jr.
James O. Hood, Sr. (Mrs)	Earl E. Vaughan
Charles E. Kemp	Joseph D. Ward
Rene C. Levy	C. Edward Wolfe
1 Year	
Jasper Accardi	John Marshall
Robert Appleby	Richard L. Montgomery
William A. Borchardt	Roy C. Moore
Alva W. (Willie) Bowers	Jack Neathery
Robert W. Bowman	Leroy Painter
Roy C. Cluck	Bill D. Parker
William D. Decker	Roy Probert
Bruce E. Doty	Paul S. Pullen
John T. Edge	George M. Pullie
Howard L. Edwards	Ray H. Russell
Michael B. Garman	Frank E. Stich
Charles B. Gentry	Clyde Vosburg
Harvey Leo Hanes	U.V. (Sam) Watson
Harold J. Hill	Kreth H. White
John Hilton	Joe F. Wilson
Walter C. Johnson, Jr.	Earl E. Zahorik
Paul O. Koll	George J. Zeoli
Jack Mallan, Sr.	



45th Division News

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

Dale E. Carney	President
Wm. Rex Wilson	Secretary/Editor
Herman Wilson	Publisher
Eva Lou Moon	Volunteer Staff
Noma Jo Strickland	Volunteer Staff
Louis A. Scott	Volunteer Staff

Address news contributions and other correspondence to Editor, 45th Division News, 45th Infantry Division Association, 2145 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111. **DO NOT SEND ITEMS THAT MUST BE RETURNED!**



— LOST ADDRESSES —

NAME	CITY/STATE	DUES	EXPIRE
Baldwin, Scott D.	Stillwater, OK		1988
Bevilacqua, Alfred	Statin Island, NY		1992
Blakey, Albert	Auburn, WA		1989
Blosch, Carol J.	Perry, OK		1988
Bresnahan, William T.	St. Augustine, FL		LIFE
Brockman, David M.	Tulsa, OK		1988
Chazin, Harry	Lauderhill, FL		1988
Cohen, Ezra	Brooklyn, NY		1989
Fagans, James P.	Oklahoma City, OK		1988
Haynes, Burlint	Plattsburgh, NY		1988
Johnson, Albert G.	Marlborough, CT		1992
Jones, William L.	Pauls Valley, OK		1988
Miller, David G.	Ada, OK		1988
Miller, Tomie D.	Tishomingo, OK		1988
Mills, Theodore A.	Orangeburg, SC		1988
Mosby, David B.	Muskogee, OK		LIFE
Nevills, Wayne	Edmond, OK		1987
Pattison, William E.	Springfield, MO		1990
Sgambati, Charley	SO PK New York, NY		1991
Trusley, James A.	Dallas, TX		1988

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The following new members were elected to the Board of Directors 45th Infantry Division Association. These Board Members were elected for three year terms expiring in 1991:

Kenneth Calhoun	Christopher Bills
Eddie A. Cope	Jack Hatfield
Walter S. Larsen	William T. Brogan

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1988 — 1989

Association officers were elected by the Board of Directors for the new year as follows:

President	Dale E. Carney
First Vice President	Allan F. McGilbra
Second Vice President	Christopher Bills
Secretary	Wm. Rex Wilson
Treasurer	Neal E. Dodds



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

_____ \$75.00 for a Life Membership
 _____ \$35.00 for a 10-Year Membership
 _____ \$15.00 for a 4-Year Membership
 _____ \$ 5.00 for a 1-Year Membership

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

Your Name (Please Print) _____

Address (Street or P.O. Box) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone: _____

Former or Present Thunderbird Unit. Give complete designation: _____

World War II _____ Pre-Korean War _____ Korean War _____ Post Korean War _____

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

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REUNION MEMORIAL

SERVICE REMARKS

Speaker:
Ed Wheeler,

Life Member,

Former President

1975-1976

At the end of every conflict throughout American History, it has been the custom for Americans to erect monuments to the memory of those who fought and fell in our defense.

Such monuments reflect a wide range of designs and purposes, as well as time periods and generations.

They include a huge, bronze, Bas-relief or third dimensional plaque, mounted on an imposing Granite wall, anchored on the Northeastern corner of Boston Common. This lifesize monument faces the entranceway to the State Capitol Building of the State of Massachusetts, and reflects the faces of the officers and men who fought and died for their state and nation.

This monument is dedicated to the 45th Massachusetts Colored Infantry Regiment of the American Civil War.

Half a continent away, there is a sister monument. Located on a common mall and sandwiched between huge office buildings on all sides and is shadowed in the afternoon sun. On the very top of a huge pillar is a diamond-shaped design with the insignia of an ancient Indian god sculptured in its center.

This monument, which stands in the downtown center of Oklahoma City is dedicated to the 45th Infantry Division of World War II and Korea.

More recently, we have added a statue in our national capitol of three men, representing combat veterans of the Vietnam conflict.

Near them, we have erected a black marble wall, containing the names of those who fell in a noble cause won on the battlefields of a faroff land, and lost in living color on the 6 o'clock news.

Monuments are a necessary catharsis for the generations that erect them.

But too often, they eventually become little more than cold anachronisms to future generations who did not experience the same frame of reference that originally justified them. For as new generations

come along, they no longer have the orientation or personal experience it takes to identify with the causes, sacrifices, or even the men and women in whose memory such monuments were erected in the first place.

I suggest to you therefore, that there is no more beautiful or meaningful monument than that of a living memorial service such as this one today.

I submit that if they were here today and could speak to us, their first words would be to thank you for remembering them. On the other hand, maybe they are here today.

Anyone who doesn't believe that could be a possibility, has never walked slowly through a military cemetery at dusk and felt their presence.

Stand by yourself someday in the middle of the sunken road at Antietam, outside of Sharpsburg, Maryland, the site of the bloodiest single day of fighting in American History. Although there will be no one in sight, it will not be long before you will know you are no longer alone.

Stand at Bloody Angle on Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, at dawn on a summer morning. The mist will clear in the valley to your front, and the trees on Seminary Ridge will begin to peak into the sky above the fog as it burns off under the warming rays of the early sun. You won't be the first person who has ever visited that place who feels someone beside you and behind you. You may even turn around to see if someone has come up to join you, but there is no one in sight. Yet, you know you are not alone.

Some day, take the opportunity to walk along the narrow black asphalt streets that lie between the imposing, gray, granite buildings that comprise the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

As the sun sets across the Bear Mountains to the west, and the shadows creep across the plain above the chilly Hudson River, after the cadets have returned to their barracks and the faculty to their homes, a quiet peace gradually settles like a gentle blanket across this cradle of future warriors.

As you walk among the deepening shadows, you can see that there is no one in sight, in any direction. But the hair on the back of your neck is standing up, because every instinct tells you that there is someone near you . . . someone in the shadows . . . and yet you see or hear no one.

I submit that whether or not you have experienced those same sensations, the fact is that memorial services such as this one represent a living monument to those who unlike mortals, no longer fear death, as much as they fear anonymity.

They know better than anyone, and would say so if they could, that to be forgotten and relegated to irrelevancy is a fate far worse than any death they endured.

So, as we gather here today and think of those with whom we served . . . and even those who went before us whom we may

never have known . . . we call on their spirits to return to our presence to let them know that what they did has not been forgotten.

If they could, what would they say if they were here today?

Possibly the oldest of those with whom some of ours have served, would trade stories with the oldest among us about the scorching sands of North Africa. Others might relate their memories of the pounding that they took from the German 88s in the mountains of Sicily.

When they found their old buddies, they would probably chuckle about the over-seasoned and aromatic salames of Palermo, and the emptied vino bottles that they discarded on the streets of Messina.

They would articulate chapters of military history through which they lived, that others have only read about, and experiences that were snapshots in a time of intensity and sacrifice that a younger generation has never known.

There would be a few who would recall the landing at Salerno, and with our artillery trails still planted in the surf of the Mediterranean Sea, how we used our indirect-fire 155mm artillery as anti-tank weapons to keep attacking Panzers from overrunning us.

They would probably relive to one another the Battle at the Brick Factory at Anzio and how repeated attacks by the Crack Hermann Goering SS Panzer Division were turned back by 45th Infantrymen who defended the line using little more than hand grenades, bayonets, and courage.

They would recall the Arno River Valley Campaign and what they thought when they finally made it to Rome, saw the decaying Coliseum, as well as the Piazza where Mussolini made the speeches that led Italy into fascism.

Some would recall the friends they had in the 36th Texas, who assaulted across the Rapido River . . . and how the Rapido turned scarlet with Texas blood for 10 miles downstream.

They would remember Southern France and when they came in contact with George Patton's tankers at Grenoble. Then how they turned east toward the Siegfried Line and tore up 300 concrete pillboxes in 24 hours.

They would tell one another, as much as to reinforce their own memories as for any other reason, how stiff the SS defense at Aschaffenburg was near the German border, and how they liberated Nuremberg and Munich.

Some, not many . . . but some . . . would tell you that they can still smell the acrid odor of burning flesh in their nostrils.

They will also recall with a profound sadness how they followed that odor for more than 10 kilometers until they passed through the gates of Dachau Concentration Camp.

Then, they would probably relate to one another what happened to them after the war. How they went to school on the G.I. Bill, met someone special and got married, how their kids grew up and how some of them reorganized the National Guard.

Then, in the summer of 1950, as many of them were just getting their feet on the ground again in terms of pursuing their lives and careers, the nation's historical penchant for disarming itself proved once again to be a guarantee that it would be pulled into still another war when it was unprepared.

Once again, within the same generation, Uncle Sam called, many of the same men who fought in Europe would now see the Orient, along with a younger generation who had been too young for the big one five years before.

Those who went a second time would relish in telling tales about Fort Polk, Louisiana — affectionately known to those who passed through it then as the "armpit of the nation." They would muse about the heat of the Isthmus of Panama, the seasickness of the Pacific crossing, and would laugh about the ankle-deep mud of Hokkaido, Northern Japan.

But they would not laugh about the bone-chilling cold of their first Korean winter.

Among close friends, they would recall buddies who were lost in the bloody struggles for Luke's Castle, Heartbreak Ridge, Dagmar, Old Baldy, and Porkchop Hill. But those memories would only be shared by those who had been there. Everyone else would only be privileged to overhear.

Still, another generation would have other stories to tell their friends, for this reunion transcends entire generations.

A newer generation that regards World War II and Korea as ancient history, would tell their elders what it was like to slog around in rice paddies near My-Tho in the Delta, or have to burn off the thumb-size, Green Tree Leeches while leading patrols of Montagnards in the Central Highlands, or get pounded night and day for a month and a half by Soviet and Chinese artillery at Khe Sanh near the DMZ.

You would be able to hear them laugh about the "attaboy" Bronze Stars that were handed out to those who hustled cold beer to the troops from the big supply base at Long Binh, and the surprise of having to fight off giant Chimpanzees on Marble Mountain at Da Nang who regarded forward observers trying to direct artillery fire on enemy positions as interlopers on their territory.

And... they would be the only generation who would tell of what it was like to have to defend a firebase on the Cambodian Border under attack by sanctuary-based North Vietnamese regulars, what it was like to rush a crying South Vietnamese child to a medic with a Punji-stake sticking through her foot at Pleiku... or see a beheaded village Chieftain's body lying in the dirt at An-khe after he had been identified by an informer to the Viet Cong as being a government official.

And in the same breath, they would also tell you what it was like to hear radio Hanoi broadcasting the delighted voice of an American movie star visiting a North Vietnamese Anti-aircraft Battery, and by

her presence, complimenting the enemy gunners for shooting down her own countrymen.

But while we remember them today, I also ask you to remember those whom you never knew. Those whose paths we never crossed, but without whose contribution and dedication and sacrifice would not have made it possible for us to be here today.

Three years ago my grandfather passed away at the the age of 100.

I like to think that rather than dying, his spirit simple marched off to join his fellow Marines with whom he served in the Philippine Insurrection at the turn of the century.

Thirteen years ago, when he was 90, I had the presence of mind to interview him using a tape recorder about what it was like to fight a three-year war on Luzon and Mindanao with nothing more than a Krag-Jorgenson Rifle and a bayonet in a conflict that hardly any of his countrymen knew or cared about.

Even at 90, he was still in good shape and mentally alert. He chuckled at my question and replied... and I quote...

"... Well... we didn't have airplanes then... but then the enemy didn't have them either. Our war was more man-to-man than it is now, but in that sense it was just as brutal."

He went on to say...

"... it may be true that nobody knew we were there or cared, but then we didn't have to fight it out on the evening news either."

And then, after a pause, he also added...

"... and when we got home... we didn't get any parades either. And as far as I know to this day, there's not a single statue to any of us who fought there. But what the hell... we did the job... we did it well... and what better legacy can anyone leave behind?"

So... ladies and gentlemen, forgive me if I can't help but think that a former Lance Corporal of the United States of Marines is with his old buddies now, trading stories and reminiscing much as we do at our reunion with comrades at arms who fought a forgotten war.

But their generation was only one of many who fought and died in the forgotten conflicts that never made the headlines or even a footnote in some American History Book.

Just in this century alone, remember those who were sent to out-of-the-way places that were little known then and long forgotten now... such as...

Nicaragua in 1912

Mexico in 1913

Haiti in 1915

The Dominican Republic and Mexico in 1916

Siberia in 1919

China in 1927

South Korea in 1946

Greece in 1947

Lebanon in 1958

Panama in 1960

The Dominican Republic in 1965

Iran in 1980

Lebanon and Grenada in 1983

El Salvador and Honduras in 1985 and finally today... The Persian Gulf.

Who remembers the men who marched in to those places, and were carried out?

I submit that the men who fought there... and in some cases died there... made no less a sacrifice than those who lost their lives on Omaha Beach or at Anzio or at Porkchop Hill or at Khe Sanh.

There were no statues erected to their memory... and there were no parades for them either.

But... they didn't expect any. They did their job and they did it well and that knowledge was their reward. As my grandfather said over a decade ago, with the wisdom of having lived over almost half the entire life of this country... "that was also their greatest legacy."

Finally, as we remember those with whom we served as well as those we never knew but to whom we owe an everlasting debt... we should not forget those who served and fell... between the wars and conflicts.

I recall a young Signal Corps PFC who while putting up a radio aerial at summer camp several years ago, accidentally came in contact with a high power line camouflaged by overhanging trees. He was only 18 years old.

I recall another young trooper who was serving as a Rear Guard Traffic Control Point and charged with guiding civilian traffic around the end of a parked convoy on a highway leading to summer camp. He was only a few weeks over 20 years old when he was crushed to death by a speeding car driven by a drunk driver.

Recently, a 26-year old Guardswoman, while working in a maintenance tent at summer camp, supposedly relatively safe from danger, was accidentally shot and killed by a round fired from a machine gun that should have been unloaded. Her husband, an Army Sergeant on duty at White Sands proving ground had to be told that the mother of his three children would not be coming home again.

So today, in this memorial service, let us remember all of them.

For some day, those of us who are here today, will take our place among the ghostly formations of those who proudly served our country in war and peace. Then, hopefully, some future generation will possibly recall what we left behind and will provide for us the living monument that we provided for those who have gone before us.

This past year alone, we have lost some more of our friends, neighbors, and countrymen who wore the same uniform, the same insignia, and served their country as proudly as we do now, and have in the past. Those whose names are now inscribed on the final muster roll of honor are:

..... (Roster)

Ladies and gentlemen... as a living monument to their memory, please join me in a moment of silence to our friends, our buddies, and our countrymen who now belong to the ages.

(Moment of silence)

Amen.

★ ★ ★ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ★ ★ ★

1st Lt. Goreig was my CO when I joined the 45th Division, Co. G 179th Infantry near Epinal, France. He was captured near Allithrone. Lt. Wants was then made CO and remained so until we ended the war in Munchen. When we crossed the Rhine River we took more prisoners than we had men in our company. About 4 years ago I wrote St. Louis, MO about my lost discharge and they sent me a box of medals which included the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf and that made me feel real good. **Gene Nichols**, Box 26 Love Shop Trl Pk, South Boston, VA 24592 (BARman Co. G 179th).

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I'm a WWII veteran from Scranton, Pennsylvania. I was sent to the 45th Division at Fort Devens, Mass in late 1942 and assigned to I Co, 3rd Bn, 179th Infantry. Lt. William Buckley was our platoon leader and Sgt. Joseph Grass was our squad leader.

I was in three invasions, Sicily, Salerno, and Anzio. I received the Bronze Star and was wounded at Anzio on the drive for Rome. Sgt. Grass from Oklahoma and I were the only soldiers left from I Co, 3rd Platoon, that came from the states.

The 45th Division was a tough, hard fighting outfit that the Germans were afraid of. I'm sending a picture of me and Sgt. Grass taken at Fort Devens. If you have any contact with Joe Grass, please give it to him.

I did not know about your 45th Division Museum until I saw a 45th bumper plate on a car near my home. The owner told me how he got the plate and got to be a member. I am buying a 45th plate to display our division emblem in Scranton, PA, my home town. **Leo L. Kreglewicz**, 311 Pear St, Scranton, PA 18505.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Application for membership and dues for 4 year membership are enclosed. It will be great to be a Thunderbird again.

I was the OIC of the 1st SRMA with Gen. Patton's headquarters and was assigned to HS Co, 120th Engineers just prior to the Sicily invasion and made Anzio, So. France up to Epinal. Then I was detached and assigned to the 4th Armored Div Hq Engineer staff, then back to the 45th and was with them through Munich. I was commissioned by Generals Patton and Bradley from CWO just east of Epinal.

The SRMA was a mobile radar detection unit and General Patton used us to spot tanks, convoys, etc., ahead of the troops. Still always on paper, HS Co, 120th Engineers. The best Engineer battalion in Europe according to General Patton and me. I was CO of HS Co for a short period from Munich, prior to leaving the division for flight school.

I ended up in the US Army Air Corps, then USAF, and retired in 1975 after 40 years of service, 1935-1975.

Sorry to hear about Gen. Eagles. Now I would like to find Capt's Hoffman, Strickland, Carr (Dr) plus other 120th Engineer men. I could write a book about my 386 days of combat as part of the best division and the only division I was ever assigned to, the Thunderbirds. **BG (Ret) J.C. Ramey**, RR8 Box 424, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I was delighted when a business acquaintance gave me a copy of the 45th Division News. It brought back some very pleasant and some sad memories of my days as a Thunderbird.

After my indoctrination at Fort Devens, MA in Jan. of '51, we were sent by train to that garden spot of the world, Camp Polk, where we were put in a training bn. After basic and a lovely ocean voyage to Hokkaido, I joined the 171st FA Bn, A Btry in May of '51. I stayed with A Battery until I rotated from Korea in December of '52.

I would dearly love to hear from some of my old buddies. **Ernest Rabinowitz**, 73 Lakeside Ave., Lake Grove, NY 11755. (516) 585-0142.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(Editor's Note: The daughter of Mme Rupp wrote to the 45th Division News asking for help in locating three soldiers she thought were in the 45th Division during WWII. See January 1988 newsletter for that letter. Also, see article in this issue about a visit to Rupp home by Tim Wilkins.)

I want write to you to give you an information concerning the research of three American servicemen. My daughter, Isabelle Rupp wrote to your Association and an article has been published on the 1st January 1988. And I address to you my thanks for that.

Now, I can say to you these three soldiers did not belong to the 45th Infantry Division.

Indeed, lately I returned at home in Epinal from the USA where I spent 15 days in a trip in California as a member of a French group of Bryeres. A trip to meet Nisei veterans who fought in the area of Bruyeres and the Vosges mountains during the WWII within our schedule the national A.J.A. Veterans Reunion 1988 in Reno (Nevada).

In San Francisco, where we stayed several days (in this so very beautiful town), I had the opportunity to look in the phone book of our hotel. There, I have read the name of Holt, Fred. And I thought: he is perhaps the soldier who fought in our area and stayed in Vimenil at home when I was 14 years old. . . . And incredible thing: he was the same man. I have found again "the very small needle in the large haystack".

Imagine, dear Mr. Wilson, with such emotion, we met again 44 years later. . . many tears in our eyes.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Fred has written his diary when he fought. We can read again many souvenirs about my family. It is a marvelous story. And I must say that this is the best souvenir of my trip to California.

In fact, Fred E. Holt belonged to the 3rd Infantry Division and also Stephan Richvalsky and Thomas G. Nixon. All are still among the living and I am very, very glad.

Today, I did want to tell you this marvelous story and thank you also for your help.

Your article in the newsletter has given to us the joy to receive letters of other veterans belonging to the 45th Infantry Division Association and we are very glad. All the veterans are our friends.

Will you excuse the some mistakes in my letter. I try to write without help. **Mme Jeanne Rupp**, Residence "le Panoramique", 30 bis, route de Remiremont, 88000 Epinal, France.

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I received the news magazine from the DAV published in Cincinnati, Ohio and they list a great number of reunions. I wrote them trying to find whom and where I could contact about the reunions of the 171st FA Bn. I was glad to receive the correspondence from you.

Enclosed find a check for ten year membership.

I was shipped from Fort Sill, OK to the 45th Division outside of Watertown, NY, then to Camp Pickett outside of Blackstone, VA, where we sailed out of Newport News, Hampton, VA. Twenty-eight days later we landed in Oran, Africa for a week and then made the landings in Sicily, Salerno and Anzio, followed by the Southern France invasion.

I was with the division all through the European campaigns. I had enough points to come home, but to return home I was shipped to the 14th Armored Division. I sure did not like it for I wanted to come back with the 45th Division outfit I had been with through it all.

I am more than happy and glad to be able to see and get back with some of my buddies. I know several have departed for our ages are mounting, as I am in my late 70's.

I do not know the rank Col Cathy and Maj Boosa had when they retired, but would like to see and visit with them, also Maj Langford.

Let me close, I will always be a "THUNDERBIRD", and may GOD BLESS YOU ALL. **David F. Peck, Sr.**, 414 Meridan St, Box 227 Shirley, IN 47384.

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I had the most pleasant experience in visiting the 45th Division Hdqts last June with my wife. You are certainly deserving to be proud of the hard work and excellent effort you people are going through to perpetuate that museum. Even the women were so lovely and helpful.

I am so proud to be associated with the 45th Division.

If our next trip takes us anywhere near Oklahoma, you can be sure we'll make another visit.

A couple of years ago I sent a hand-made (latch hook) wall hanging rug. did you find a place to hang it? I hope so.

I doubt if anyone up there remembers me, which I can understand, since our only contact has been by letter, but I wish you all the very best of everything in the future. **Fred DeJulio**, 701 Hibiscus 11, McAllen, TX 78501.

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I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$75 for a Life membership in the 45th Infantry Division Association. I served in the 45th in Korea 1953 and 1954. Glad to serve my country and in the 45th Infantry Division.

I did not know there was an organization like this or I would have joined sooner. I found out about the Association because I wear a Korean veteran hat with a 45th patch attached and someone who saw the hat patch said he was in the 45th and gave me the information. **Cloyd H. Spahr**, 315 Valley Road, Etters, PA 17319.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I was a radio operator with the 45th Signal Co. I spent D-day off Southern France on an LST converted into a flattop with 8 or 10 observation planes.

I had the experience just a month ago of meeting a pilot of a similar plane who came into Southern France on a similar flattop the next day. My question is: is there anyone among your readers who was aboard the D-day ship? I have some interesting pictures of the ship and of planes taking off that I would be glad to share. I understand the planes were from our Div Arty. **Robert Potts**, 5321 Davidson SE, Albany, OR 97321.

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Last month our Company C, 279th RCT reunion was held in Oklahoma City. We had a good turnout and it was great to see old friends, some that hadn't seen each other in over 36 years. I was with the group that was in the Korean conflict and we had all served from Camp Polk, Japan, and Korea. Of the 18 that showed up, only 3 were with the 45th National Guard. The rest of us were draftees or RA. It's too bad the men from the NG group don't show any interest in attending these reunions. Our company was formed from the Chilocco School and we'd very much like to see these men. It's noted that they don't even belong to the 45th Division Association or the 279th Association. If any of you Company C men read this, we'll be meeting again in 1990. We plan on meeting every other year. A big thanks goes to our former Lts. John Calder and Lee Fry. They keep it going and we all value their friendship and leadership. **Logan V. Catterall**, 6618 Bostwick Dr., Springfield, VA 22151.

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★ ★ ★ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ★ ★ ★

I very much enjoy reading the 45th Division News and look forward to "Letters to the Editor" with the hope of reading about somebody that I knew. It was my good fortune to join the 45th Infantry Division in January, 1944 as a replacement when the division was in a rest area after having been on the front line for a record-breaking 80 days. My first assignment was Co. I, 179th Infantry Regiment. We landed on Anzio Beachhead 2 days after the initial landing had been made. The 1st Battalion of the 179th took a terrific beating trying to take the "factory". I was then transferred to Co. A, 179th Infantry Regiment and, like Leslie Papendorf said in the July, 1988 issue of the 45th Division News, we became prisoners of war on February 18, 1944. Fourteen months later the Russians liberated our stalag at Luckenwalde on April 22, 1945. It was a terrific day for all of us who were POWs.

I did not spend that much time in Co. A, 179th Infantry Regiment and did not therefore get to know too many of the men in our company. In fact, the company was considerably understrength at the time of my capture. I do not recall Leslie Papendorf and more than likely he does not remember me.

I did get to reunions of the 45th Infantry Division Association many years ago in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Chicago. For awhile there was a chapter in Chicago, but it folded after the Chicago reunion. It is hoped that I will be able to get to another reunion in the near future.

Keep up the good work.

Peter J. Sotich, 3851 W. 62nd Place, Chicago, IL 60629.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The attached application was sent to me by a friend (former Sgt) John Neimeyer of Minneapolis, Minn. who served with me during the Korean War, 1950-1952. John had received a copy and pamphlet from another former Thunderbird, a Michigan resident, who was recently in Oklahoma on business and visited the museum.

Now that all that geography has been explained, I wish to compliment the State of Oklahoma on the establishment of the museum. It is my intention to visit it in the not too distant future.

John Neimeyer and I have enjoyed a lasting friendship that began in Camp Polk, Louisiana 38 years ago. We correspond, telephone, and have even visited on occasion. Quite often we reminisce about the people and events that we associate with our service and, with "tongue in cheek", have considered writing a book about these experiences (John kept a journal while in Korea). However, I don't know if the world is ready for another "Willie and Joe"!

Needless to say, I am pleased to apply for membership and look forward to receiving the Division News. Hopefully, I might see some information about others whom I served with. **Thomas P. Tiernan**, 10 Fleetwood Road, Dumont, NJ 07628.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Several weeks ago, while on a fishing trip to the Bahama Islands, I ran into a man that I hadn't seen in 36 years. He happened to be my Battalion Commander during the Korean War, Col A.H. Spears, 2nd Bn, 179th Regiment. What a SURPRISE.

We didn't get to visit very long as this meeting took place at the airport in Cat Island. I had to board the plane that bought in Col Spears and his group from Beaufort, SC, but there was time for some quick reminiscing and some picture taking. I did learn that the Colonel has made a number of Bahama fishing trips on a boat based near Pompano Beach and it is my intention to join him on one of these trips.

We have corresponded since and this resulted in my hearing from Eff Birdsong, then Capt Birdsong, who headed up the S-2 Section, the section I was assigned to. He wrote that he is retired and living in Brentwood, TN. It certainly was nice hearing from him.

I was drafted in October 1950 out of St. Louis, MO and assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 179th Regiment at Camp Polk, LA. From there, it was on to Hokkaido, Japan and then to Korea in Dec. 51. I left Korea in August 52 and discharged in October.

I left my home town, St. Louis, in 1959 for Florida where I started my own business and needless to say, enjoy the warm climate. Yes, I do remember those COLD Korean days.

Thanks to Col Spears, I received the April issue of the 45th Division News. Enclosed please find a check for \$15 for a 4 year membership. I look forward to receiving the Division News and reading about some of my old friends with whom I served. **David A. Neuner**, 1233 S.W. 2nd Terrace, Pompano Beach, FL 33060.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I joined Co. B, 1st Bn., 179th Infantry in Italy in 1944. I was a messenger for the 2nd Platoon. Lt. William B. Flowers was my platoon leader. Lt. Flowers was very likeable and a good leader of men. I was one of the 9 men that were with Lt. Flowers in the battle of Grandviller, France for which Lt. Flowers was awarded the Silver Star.

My service with Co. B, 179th Infantry included Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. I served with some good men in Co. B; one was David L. Beard of Bloomington, Indiana (a fellow messenger) and another very good leader of men, Capt. Harold H. Weishuker of Saginaw, Michigan. David Beard and I have kept in touch with each other since 1945 and he has visited me here in Florida. It was a thrill to have Capt. Weishuker to knock on my front door last year. It was good to see him after 44 years.

If anyone out there remembers me from Co. B, 179th Infantry, I would like to hear from them.

There will never be a better division than the 45th Infantry Division and I am happy to say that I was a part of it. **Lee Smith**, 3115 Bayshore Garden Pkwy, Bradenton, FL 34207.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Recently my wife and I had the pleasure of visiting with one of my old buddies from Hq. Co., 3rd Battalion, 180th Infantry, "Pioneer Platoon". His name is William B. Hepp. Bill lives in the hills of Massachusetts in a little place called Ashfield. We really had a nice time, staying for 2 nights at his house. Bill and his wife, Ruth, showed us around, took us to some nice restaurants, and we saw some of the beautiful sights of Massachusetts. Bill really likes to receive mail, so if any of his buddies would like to write to him, I will send them his address. **Raymond J. Noratel**, 2823 Georgetown Road, Baltimore, MD 21230.

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A Membership form was given to me by Joe Parzy, who belongs to the 45th Infantry Division Association.

In combat during World War II, I served with the 180th Infantry Regiment in Italy, France and Germany. It was during the years 1943 through 1945. I was wounded three times and received the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

I am a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans; and Veterans of Foreign Wars. I am also a member of the American Legion; AMVETS; and National Order of Trench Rats.

At the present time, I am the President of the Allied Veterans Council of South Wood County of Wisconsin, serving my third term, starting this past January. Also, I am presently the VAVS Representative for the Department of Wisconsin D.A.V. at the Tomah VA Medical Center, Tomah, WI. I have served in this capacity for the past four years and now have been reinstated for two more years. **Harris P. Marsh**, 311 Two Mile Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494.

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I'm eternally optimistic so I'm renewing my membership for 10 years. From time to time I see my old friend Robert G. McGeary, Cannon, CO, 180th and write or talk by phone to Daniel C. Ahearn, who is doing well.

I hope to get in touch with Anizo Organization and will attend their April reunion, if at all possible.

Keep up the good work — for we all enjoy the news — wish it came more often! **Henry F. Teichmann**, 45 Lake Fairgreen Cir., New Smyrna Bch, FL 32069.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I joined the 45th Division, Co A 120 Engr Bn in August 1942, after I finished basic training at Camp Wheeler, GA.

I accompanied the Co A 1st Plt, 1st Squad through all the campaigns in Sicily, Naples-Foggia-Rome-Arno-Southern France, Rhineland, Central Europe.

I received the Purple Heart, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with 6 Bronze Stars and 1 Bronze Arrowhead.

I was among the men of Co A 120 Engr Bn to be transferred to Co A 328 Engineer Bn, 103rd Infantry Division to be discharged from the Army in September 1945.

I have been in building construction as carpenter, foreman and superintendent. I retired in 1982, but remain active in same area of business.

I was married in 1947 and we now have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. **Roland E. Diehl**, RD 1, Box 496, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I am the widow of Clifford U. Woods, Co K 157 Inf, WWII. He joined the 45th Division here at Camp Berkeley, and earned the Bronze Star and Presidential Unit Citation while with the 45th. He so enjoyed being part of this unit.

He was a bus driver for Sunset Stages since 1950. Traveled the States over, with charters, and in this process, ran across so many of his buddies of the 45th.

He passed away November 11, 1986, just two days before his 69th Birthday. Many fond and beautiful memories makes it hard to accept his passing.

He had driven a bus for the City of Abilene from 1945 to 1950. So many friends he has here. He had the opportunity to go through the museum area in Oklahoma City, when you first set it up so complete. He never had the opportunity to go to any reunions, and sadly, died before he could come to one he had planned on.

Wonderful to have group such as this. He always enjoyed the News about everyone. Memories in so many ways. **Mrs. Cliff Woods**, Box 356, Rt 7, Abilene, TX 79605.

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I met Bill Burnison, who was in the 45th Division, 180 Inf and he gave me your address, because I wanted to join the 45th Division Association.

I was a teenage replacement in October 1943, 189 FA Bn, Charlie Battery, 4th Section. Bill had a bumper sticker on his car. I would like to buy some, plus any thing else that I can.

Bill said he spent 28 days in Madigan Hospital. Maybe his friends don't know. **Art "Redlegs" Hansen**, 5416 So M St, Apt 23, Tacoma, WA 98408.

★★★ THUNDERBIRD DEATHS ★★★

John Embry

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma died 18 June 1988. John was born 13 July 1905 at Sparks, Oklahoma and later moved to Chandler, OK where he received his childhood education. Upon graduation from High School, he attended OU and OSU graduating in 1927 with an LLB degree. He practiced law at Chandler with his father until September 1940 when he was mobilized with the 45th Infantry Division.

John entered federal service as Commanding Officer of Battery F, 160th Field Artillery Regiment. He served as a member of the 160th Field Artillery Battalion throughout World War II. During most of the 511 combat days during WWII, John was assigned as Commanding Officer of the battalion, and served with great distinction. Military awards included the Silver Star for gallantry in action, Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star. Subsequent to World War II he was integrated into the Regular Army. He retired in 1960 with 35 years service.

Embry was active as a historian and authored a book about the 160th FA Bn at Anzio, "A Time to Honor". He received numerous awards from the 45th Division Association for outstanding service and support. In January 1987 he received the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Cross and also a commission as a Brigadier General in the Oklahoma National Guard. He received the Stanley Draper Distinguished Service Award for his work with the Lincoln County and 45th Division museums.

John is survived by his widow, Martha Jeannette Embry.

Robert McCauley

Alta Loma, CA died 6 July 1988 at age 72. Robert was a Platoon Leader in Company F, 179th Infantry during WWII. He served during the Korean War and retired from U.S. Army Intelligence in the grade of Major.

Charles S. Parks

Enid, Oklahoma died 4 September 1987. Parks joined the 45th Division at Anzio, Italy and served until the end of the War in Europe. After World War II, he moved from Pennsylvania to Enid and rejoined the 45th Infantry Division unit station in Enid. Charles was commissioned as an Officer in the Oklahoma Army National Guard and retired from that service in 1978.

Victor Ares

Framingham, Massachusetts, a LIFE member of the 45th Infantry Division Association, died 29 July 1988. Victor was an 80% disabled veteran and proud of his service with the 45th Division. He had been ill with cancer for the past three years.

George M. Bouse

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma died 13 June 1988 after a long illness. George was a member of 700 Ordnance Company, 45th Division throughout WWII.

Edward T. Pranaitis

Southbridge, Massachusetts, died of cardiac arrest at his home 6 June 1988. Edward was a LIFE member of the 45th Infantry Division Association. His son Edward R. Pranaitis advised us of his father's death and expressed his appreciation for services rendered by the association on behalf of his father. He said his father was very proud of his service in the 45th Division.

Allan L. Roberts

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota died in July 1988. Allan was born in Detroit Lakes, 11 September 1917. He served in the 160th Field Artillery Battalion, 45th Division in World War II. He married Myrtle Kandt 9 January 1943 in Watertown, New York. After the war, they operated restaurants in Morris, MN and Detroit Lakes, MN. Myrtle preceded Allan in 1983. He is survived by a sister, Charlotte Weum, Moorehead, MN.

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★	Taps	★
★	Victor Ares	★
★	Roy Barber	★
★	Woody Big Bow	★
★	George M. Bouse	★
★	Stanislaus Cappucci	★
★	John P. "Kit" Carson	★
★	Darl K. Cottman	★
★	John Embry	★
★	Otis M. Fain, Sr.	★
★	Thomas A. Ferraro, Sr.	★
★	Patrick J. Guimont	★
★	Joseph Heitkamp	★
★	Dewitt C. Houser	★
★	Paul Hughes	★
★	Henry B. Jensen, Sr.	★
★	Michael Kalina	★
★	Tom Kelly	★
★	Homer Knowton	★
★	Robert M. McCauley	★
★	Charles S. Parks	★
★	Everest F. Pavel	★
★	Edward T. Pranaitis	★
★	Eugene H. Rennick	★
★	Allan F. Roberts	★
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★ ★ ★ Letters to the Editor (Cont'd) ★ ★ ★

I am a member of the 45th Division Association — the greatest Division in the good ole U.S.A. I was with Co F 180 Regt, World War II from July 1943 until the end of April 1944 when I was put out of action with my feet and legs. I was a replacement with the Division, Co F at Licata, Sicily as a 1st Scout. At that time, Sgt Paul Piercy was our squad leader and Cpl Phil Myers was the assistant. Isaac Simpson was our B.A.R. man. His brother Edgar was a rifleman.

Also there were others that I remember who were killed in Italy. Sgt Piercy died in 1958 and was buried in Arlington Cemetery, Washington D.C. Cpl Myers died October 1981. He was from Williamsburg, PA. I had a cousin that was with the 179 Regt. He was killed in Italy in 1943.

I was wondering if there is any member of the 45th that had Basic Training at Camp Wheeler, GA from March and April 1943. I was with Co. C 7th Bn. Some of A, B, C & D Companies were replacements at Licata, Sicily with me.

I sure would love to hear from anyone. At present time I am corresponding with Edgar Simpson of Tulsa, OK and Raul Trevino of San Antonio, TX, who were with Co G of the 180 Regt.

So for this time God Bless the Division Members and the Oklahoma National Guard.

James C. Bonsell, Mayor, 712 North 6th St, Bellwood, PA 16617.

45th Infantry Division Association
2145 N.E. 36th Street
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