

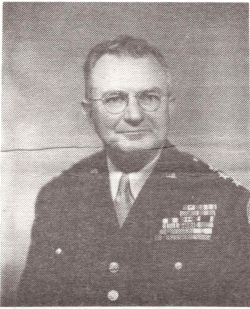
45th Division News

October, 1990

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

THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS

TROY HOUSTON MIDDLETON



Troy Houston Middleton was born October 12, 1889, the fifth child of John Houston Middleton and Katherine Louise Thompson Middleton, on a plantation near Georgetown in Copiah County, Mississippi. At age 15, he entered Mississippi A&M College and graduated in 1909 with a BS degree.

In 1910, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a private in the 29th Infantry Regiment. In 1913, Middleton was commissioned as a 2d Lieutenant of Infantry and stationed at Fort Crockett, near Galveston, Texas. He was

promoted to First Lieutenant in 1916 and to Captain in 1917. He was with the Punitive Expedition into Mexico in 1914.

While stationed at Fort Crockett, Middleton met Miss Jerusha Collins and they were married on January 6, 1915 in Galveston. The marriage flourished for 61 years and produced two children, Troy Jr. and Bernice.

In February 1917, Middleton was transferred to the 47th Infantry at Camp Greene, NC and in May 1918 went to France with that regiment, later transferring to the 39th Infantry.

He served in the Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne offensives and in the Vesle Sector. When the commanding officer of the 39th Infantry was wounded, Middleton took command of the regiment in the front lines. He later became commanding officer of the 47th Infantry. He was promoted to Major in June 1918, to Lieutenant Colonel in September 1918, and to Colonel in October 1918. He was the youngest colonel in the AEF. For his bravery and tactical skills in combat during WWI he received the Distinguished Service Medal and the Silver Star.

In July 1919 he returned to the United States and was assigned to the Infantry School at Camp Benning, GA as an instructor. He reverted to his permanent rank of Captain in February 1920 and was again promoted to Major in July 1930, to Lieutenant Colonel in August 1935, and to Colonel upon retirement in October 1937.

During the years from 1919 and 1937, Middleton graduated from the Officer Advanced Course at Camp Benning, the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, KS, and the Army War College. He became a member of the Infantry Board in 1922.

In 1930 he was assigned as Professor of Military Science at Louisiana State University and remained there until 1936 when he was assigned to the Philippine Department for duty with the Department Inspector General.

General Middleton retired from the Army in October 1937 and became Dean of Administration at LSU and served in that capacity until his recall to active duty with the Army in January 1942.

Upon his return to active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel, he was assigned to the Infantry Replacement Center at Camp Wheeler, GA. He was promoted to Colonel in February 1942 and assigned to the 4th Division; in April he was assigned as commander of the 142d Infantry Regiment, 36th Division at Camp Blanding, FL.

In June 1942, Middleton was promoted to Brigadier General and assigned as assistant commander of the 45th Infantry Division stationed at Fort Devens, MA. He assumed command of the division in October 1942 and was promoted to Major General.

Major General Middleton led the 45th Infantry Division into combat in Sicily and in Italy. It was rumored that when General Middleton learned that General Clark, 5th Army commander, might pull the troops off the beachhead at Salerno, he told General Clark to "Put food and ammunition behind the 45th. We are going to stay here." It was later confirmed by General Middleton that he did, in fact, say those words and that General Clark was incensed, but decided to

maintain the beachhead. General Middleton's action helped save the beachhead and the tenacity of the 45th Division troops kept it from becoming another Dunkirk.

In January 1944, General Middleton was relieved by Major General W. W. Eagles, assistant commander of the 3rd Infantry Division. General Middleton returned to the United States and was assigned to Headquarters, Army Ground Forces. In March 1944, he was sent to England and given command of the VIII Corps, which he took into combat on June 12, 1944 in the invasion of France. His VIII Corps units were involved in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and General Middleton's expertise at tactics denied the enemy success in this German offensive to stave off total defeat and extend the war.

Troy Middleton retired from active duty with the U.S. Army in August 1945 with the rank of Lieutenant General. He returned to duties at Louisiana State University. He was appointed President of that institution in 1951 and served with distinction until his retirement in 1962.

In 1946, General Middleton was appointed to sit on the Doolittle Board, convened to investigate officer-enlisted relationships. In 1951, he was called upon to serve on a panel investigating alleged violations of the West Point honor code.

General Middleton's many awards included the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; the Silver Star; Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal; the Order of Black Star (France) Legion of Honor (Officer); the French Croix de Guerre with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Lieutenant General Troy Middleton died on October 9, 1976, just three days short of his 87th birthday. He was interred with full military honors in the Baton Rouge Military Cemetery.

Troy Houston Middleton was a true "soldiers soldier." His scholarly demeanor masked a brilliant military mind that won him high honors for his strategic and tactical abilities in time of combat. The troops of the 45th Infantry Division were very fortunate that Troy H. Middleton was chosen to lead them on their virgin entry into combat in World War II. His leadership proved invaluable in assuring that the Thunderbirds became the best combat division under American arms.

REUNION RECAP

The 45th Annual Reunion of the 45th Infantry Division Association is "HISTORY" and a memorable part of history to the seven hundred plus Thunderbirds and their guests in attendance.

The reunion marked the 50th Anniversary of the mobilization for World War II and the 40th Anniversary of the mobilization for the Korean War. The reunion and the "FREEDOM KEEPERS" parade conducted Saturday 25 August in downtown Oklahoma City were the initial events in a National commemorative period 1990-1995 celebrating the World War II era.

The military parade was the largest military parade conducted in Oklahoma City since return of the colors to the 45th Infantry Division following the Korean War. The ceremony appropriately named "OPERATION COLORBACK" was held at the state fairgrounds in 1954.

Attendance this year was the largest ever, and the format change of the business meeting and ladies activities being schedule on Friday seemed to be well accepted.

The ladies luncheon on Friday had a record attendance of 245 and everyone had a great time thanks to the efforts of Committee Chairperson Lois Batey and her faithful support group comprised of Thunderbird wives.

The "Disk Jockey" Country and Western Dance on Friday night was well attended and the dance floor was full most of the time. Complaints were minimal.

(cont'd on page 2)

(REUNION cont'd from page 1)

The sit-down dinner in-lieu-of a buffet was well accepted and the entertainment by the "OK-KIDS" was outstanding. The singers were 11 year old Laura Melrose and 12 year old Natalie Tidwell. The fathers of both girls are members of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. Natalie is scheduled to participate in Ed McMahon's "Star Search" program in October 1990. We wish her the best of luck, she already has the talent.

We had a capacity crowd for the 7:45 a.m. Memorial Service on Saturday. Don Livesay made an inspirational speech and there were few dry eyes at the conclusion.

We had over 700 in attendance at the Saturday night banquet. Entertainment was provided by April Gandy, a "Thunderbird" wife. As usual April did an outstanding job and was recognized with a standing ovation.

Guest speaker for the banquet was Brigadier General Ed Wheeler a current member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard. Ed has a load of talent and he exhibited it for us. His unique approach in the presentation covered the "seven" generations of citizen soldiers he has served with during his career. His presentation was acknowledged by several rounds of applause and a standing ovation at the conclusion.

As usual the Registration Committee consisting of Eva Lou Moon and Noma Strickland did a great job in processing reunion attendees upon arrival. We plan to move the registration activity to the Gazebo area next year to escape the extreme heat in the north hall.

The welcoming committee chaired by former President Jimmy Jones did an excellent job in meeting incoming personnel at the airport and coordinating their transportation to the hotel. We received many good comments concerning this activity. A related action was improvement in our recognition of out-of-state attendees. We had members present from 40 states and France.

Several satellite reunions were held in conjunction with our reunion, some were conducted at the Hilton Inn and others were at other motels in the general area. Some of these reunion attendees participated in the 45th Association activities, others did not. The events scheduled in conflict with the association schedule detracted from our reunion. We had some members request refunds due to the conflicting schedules, after we had guaranteed our meal count to the hotel.

The transportation committee headed up by Tom Meyers outdid themselves again with some 20 hour days, pleasant attitudes and a mission of service with a smile. Another great job by a group of current guardsmen volunteers.

We received some complaints about the cost of meals. There are several areas of cost related to these type activities that cannot be charged individually, such as: entertainment, hospitality, supplies, flowers, transportation, welcoming, printing and administration. All of these costs cannot be included in the registration fee or it would be exorbitant, therefore, some of these costs have to be absorbed in the cost of meals. Based on income received from registrations and the total cost of items identified to date, the amount charged for preregistration of a member and one guest to all activities (\$110.00) exceeds the cost per couple for all events by \$.20 (\$109.80). We don't believe you can get any closer than that.

We had 600 Thunderbirds register for the reunion. 461 members and their guests participated in the Friday and Saturday activities, 141 members paid the \$15.00 registration fee only and evidently did not participate in any other paid activities. 68 people registered for reunion who are not members of the association.

Memorials Dedicated to James O. Smith

MUSEUM MEMORIAL PLAQUE. The 180th Infantry Association presented a memorial plaque to the 45th Infantry Division Museum Memorial Committee, represented by Odell T. Shaw, during the business meeting of the association. The plaque contained a likeness of "Cotton," and an epitaph reflecting major accomplishments of COL Smith during his lifetime. The plaque will be installed in an appropriate area within the museum.

LEADERSHIP AWARD. The 180th Infantry Association made the initial presentation of an annual award identified as the COL James O. Smith Leadership Award, to be presented each year to the outstanding Rifle Company Commander within the 45th Infantry Brigade. The recipient of the Leadership Award for 1990 was 1st Lt Martin B. Tucker, Commanding Officer Company B, 1/180th Infantry, Poteau, Oklahoma.

MEMORIAL BRIDGE. The State of Oklahoma dedicated a bridge in memory of COL Smith on 21 September 1990. The bridge is located on State Highway 56, West of Okemah, OK. The dedication was well attended and included many dignitaries including LTG LaVern E. Weber, Executive Director of the National Guard Association of the United States, Washington, D.C. The bridge was named "COLONEL JAMES O. SMITH MEMORIAL BRIDGE."

New Board Members

The following members were elected to the association Board of Directors during the Annual Business Meeting 24 August 1990:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| George M. Donovan, Ardmore, OK | Danny Marler, Norman, OK |
| James A. Pahdoco, Edmond, OK | Wm. Rex Wilson, Yukon, OK |
| Raul Trevino, San Antonio, TX | Neal E. Dodds, Edmond, OK |
| John V. Devoll, Whiting, NJ | |

New Officers for 1990-1991

The following officers were elected by the Board of Directors during the Board Meeting 24 August 1990:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Christopher Bills |
| 1st Vice President | William R. Wilson Jr. |
| 2d Vice President | Danny Marler |

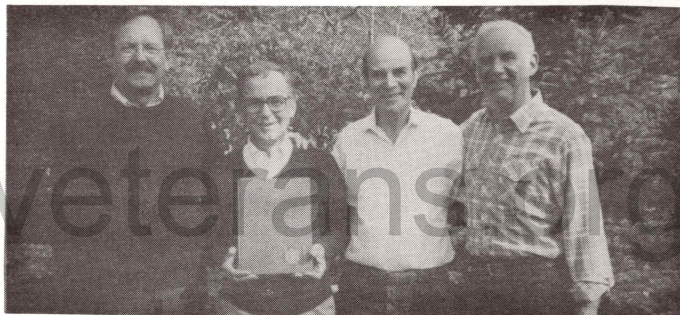
Secretary Rex Wilson and Treasurer Neal Dodds agreed to serve in their respective assignments for 1990-1991.

Korea Medics Reunite

Four members of Medical Company, 180th Infantry in Korea recently held a mini-reunion in the New York City area where all are currently located. Charles Brown mobilized with the company, the other three were assigned to the unit at Fort Polk, LA.

Charles Brown's retirement was announced in the July 1990 edition of the 45th Division News. Brown said they all hoped to be able to attend the reunion in August.

Mini-reunion participants are pictured below. From left to right they are: CHARLES BROWN, CHARLES PRATO, PATRICK SBARRA AND BILL MURRAY.



Looking For Buddies

I would appreciate your help in locating the following individuals who are all World War II veterans of the 45th Infantry Division from Oklahoma: Jack Shannyhan (Medic). Herman C. (Dutch) Bonds and Sherman Jones. Bonds and Jones were both Lieutenants. CLITUS BURROW, 807 Pittsburg, Amarillo, TX 79104. (Editors Note: Burrow was a member of the 180th Infantry in World War II)

I would like very much to hear from any former members of Company M, 279th Infantry with whom I served during the Korean War. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the 45th Division again. CARMEN J. BALZANO, 10 Orange St., Waverly, NY 14892 (1st Div WW II-45th Div Korea)

I am pleased that you wrote to the VFW Magazine concerning non-recognition of the 45th Division on the cover of their special edition on the Korean War.

I was a member of Medical Company, 279th Infantry during the 1952-1953 time frame. I was attached to Company E and H during this period.

I would like to hear from anyone who remembers me. WILLIAM HAROLD KINES, 801 Logan Street, Piedmont, AL 36272.

I was glad to see the article in the August 1990 issue of the VFW magazine. For many years I had hoped to get in touch with some of my buddies that were in the 45th.

I joined the 45th Division at Camp Polk, LA and was originally assigned to Company C, 120th Engineer Battalion. I was later transferred to the Postal Section of Division Headquarters.

I would like to locate some of my buddies from these units. My military identification was Cpl Carl B. Matthews. C. BROWN MATTHEWS, SR, 3600 Ridge Ranch Circle, Birmingham; AL 35216.

Reunions

Korean War veterans of the newly formed Hawaii Chapter of the 45th Infantry Division Association held their first reunion on the evenings of 27-28 July 1990 at the Flamingo Restaurant and Hale Koa Hotel. The first evening, called Foxhole Night, saw 28 former Thunderbirds in attendance. There were some tearful hugs as former buddies saw each other for the first time in nearly forty years. Throughout the evening the men poured over maps of Korea and battle sights as well as many battle narratives made available by research. These brought back forgotten memories and, sometimes, painful reflections. The occasion drifted into the wee hours of the next morning.

The second night showed a transformation from the first night as we were attired in coats and ties and wearing our military decorations. The banquet was held at the elegant Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki. In attendance were thirty-two Thunderbirds and their spouses. One of the highlights of the evening came when the Thunderbirds were decorated with the Korean War Medal by General Jang Nai Sohn, Consulate General of South Korea. This was a rare occasion in that the Korean War Medal had never before been awarded outside of South Korean soil. This exception was made because of the efforts by Hawaii's Thunderbirds in maintaining a close relationship with the Korean Veterans Association of South Korea and officially recognizing, through the Governor's office, the year 1990 as the 40th Anniversary of the Korean War.

The focal point of the reunion was really to pay tribute to our comrades-in-arms, not only of the men from the 45th Infantry Division, but to other units as well, which fought gallantly in Korea, and to the many who gave their lives forty years ago.

World War II and Korea veterans of Company D, 179th Infantry met in Norman, OK 10-11 August 1990 for their annual reunion/muster. Joan Wall and Iris Gragg and other members of the women's auxiliary provided refreshments for the open house and entertainment for the banquet. Members were in attendance from six states.

Dan Wilson was elected "World Wide Coordinator" for all activities, which includes the next reunion to be held in Norman, OK 9-10 August 1991. All Company D veterans are urged to contact Dan at 469 Wedgefield Road, Granbury, TX 76048.

TANK COMPANY, 179th INFANTRY (KOREA) convened their second BI-ANNUAL REUNION 22-24 June 1990 at the National Guard Armory in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Thirty eight Tankers were present, and most were accompanied by their spouses. Many of the first timers had not been seen by their buddies since 1952.

The next reunion will be held in 1992 at Kosciusko, Mississippi. Charles Burchfield, 126 West South Street, Kosciusko, MS 39090 will be in charge of local arrangements. Prospective members write to: Tank Company, 179th Infantry, 62 Broadlawn, Ardmore, OK 73401.

I received my membership application from Fred Paglia, Castaic, CA on 24 July 1990 while I was on vacation. I hadn't seen Fred in 35 years and the three hours we spent together discussing our mutual friends and their whereabouts brought back many memories. Fred was wounded in action and is suffering from arthritis of the spine, but his sense of humor has not left him. Fred gave me his Thunderbird reunion packet which I enjoyed reading and I recognized a few of the names.

The enclosed snapshot was taken at a mini-reunion of former members of the 279th Infantry conducted in the Brensten, NY area.



Pictured in the front row partially hidden is Bill McClain, Katonah, NY, Fred Frulla, Ridgefield, CT, Charles Maine, Old Bridge, N.J. Second row: Tom Nagele, Massapequa, NY, George Zeoli, Peekskill, NY, Rudy DeRosa, Stamford, CT, Elmer Ziegler, Fishkill, NY. Top row: Jim Morgia, Croton Falls, NY, John Santangelo, Peekskill, NY, Fred Vogel, New City, NY and John Riliomato, Peekskill, NY. JAMES L. MORGIA, Sun Valley Heights, Croton Falls, NY 10519.

Seeking Information

I was a member of the 45th Reconnaissance Company stationed in Korea in January 1952.

I am looking for any of the men who were with me when an artillery shell exploded near me when we were on a daylight patrol. ROBERT BICKLEY, 3215 Giehler Drive, Stoughton, Wisconsin 53589

TAPS

Lawrence J. Andert	Stanley Naromore
Dillard H. Bucklen	George Petrin
Jack Bullington	Charles A. Purcell
Harold Dodwell	George L. Purcell
Ralph E. Evans	Edward Roberts
Michael Gabula	Frank V. Roesler, Sr.
Jack W. Greasby	John Schast
Robert James Hogue, Jr.	Martin N. (Marty) Schreck
Joseph F. Johnston	Louis Selzer
William J. Johnston	Archie Stith
Matt Kasunich	R. "Ralph" Ernest Taylor
William "Bill" Luman	William Eugene Williams

Thunderbird Deaths

WILLIAM J. JOHNSTON, COLCHESTER, CT. Deceased 29 May 1990. During his military service in World War II, Johnston was assigned as a machine gunner with the 4th Platoon, Company G, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division.

He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life while in combat in Padiglione, Italy during the fighting at the Anzio Beachhead on 17 February 1944. The medal was presented to Johnston by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in September 1944.

Bill was retired from the state of Connecticut Treasury Department, Veterans Bonus Division. He served as commissioner of the Rocky Hill Veterans Home and Hospital and was retired from the Veterans Administration in Hartford, CT.

He was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, serving as Commander for many years. He was also a member of the American Legion, the Legion of Valor, Disabled American Veterans, Purple Heart Society and the Medal of Honor Society.

Approximately two weeks before William J. Johnston died, his home town of Colchester, CT, with the assistance of the local VFW and American Legion Chapters, renamed the Central Middle School the William J. Johnston School and it was dedicated to his honor. During the dedication ceremony, Johnston received several standing ovations from the audience of approximately 500 people. Speakers included Governor William A. O'Neill, MG John T. Gereski, The Adjutant General of Connecticut discussed Johnston's bravery in combat.

In remembrance of Johnston, the town of Colchester proclaimed the seven days between 30 May and 6 June 1990 as a period of mourning, and that all flags would be flown at half mast during that time.

Survivors are his wife Dorothy, one son, three daughters and six grandchildren.

WILLIAM "BILL" LUMAN, POTEAU, OK. Deceased 26 July 1990. Bill served in the Military Police Company in World War II and Korea and as a member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard for 19 years.

He was a member of the Tinker Air Force Base Security Police for 22 years.

Awards and decorations include the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Medal.

Survivors include his wife Violet, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Letters to Editor (cont'd from page 5)

After 18 months with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol at McAlester, I reenlisted as a Private and served in recruiting at Ponca City, Perry, Cushing and Stillwater. I was then assigned to the 18th Field Artillery at Fort Sill until I was sent to Korea in August 1950 and assigned to the 37th Field Artillery.

I received a direct commission as 2d Lieutenant in September 1950. After returning to the states in August 1951 I served tours at Fort Sill, in Germany, as Advisor to the 95th Division at Little Rock, Arkansas and then was reassigned to Fort Sill as Assistant G-4 until retirement from active duty 1 December 1963 with 27 years service.

After retirement from active duty I was employed as Staff Administrative Assistant with 2d Brigade, 95th Division (Tng) at Lawton, OK and retired from that position 21 May 1985. I am a Life member of the 45th Division Association, VFW and DAV. **WILLIAM R. HEDGES**, Box 9113, Lawton, OK 73505.

Enclosed please find my application for membership in honor of my brother Peter C. C. Van Rossen, Company C, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division.

Peter passed away on 20 July 1985. He was a native of the Netherlands when he joined the U.S. Army. At the time of his enlistment his parents, 3 brothers and 2 sisters were under German occupation and terror.

Peter participated in all four amphibious landings and was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart for combat actions and wounds. He was returned to the United States after being wounded near Nancy, France.

Perhaps there are still some survivors who remember Peter, a tall blonde Dutchman and can send us their recollection of events so we might put them among the other items of his service in our family archives.

Thanking you in advance with cordial friendship. **CORNELIUS J. VAN ROSSEN**, Route 7, Box 945, Georgetown, SC 29440.

I was mobilized with Battery C, 158 Field Artillery in 1940. Promoted to First Sergeant at Camp Berkeley prior to departure for aviation cadet training. I was assigned to the Eighth Air Force in Europe where I was shot down and became a Prisoner of War. Upon liberation I spent the first night of freedom with the 158th Field Artillery in Munich, Germany.

After return from World War II, I assisted in organizing Company I, 179th Infantry in Perry, Oklahoma. Mobilized with the 45th Division for the Korean War and remained on active duty as an Artillery Officer. During the remainder of my service time I served in Germany, Korea and my last overseas tour was in Southeast Asia during the period 1966-1968. I served two tours as an advisor to the Army National Guard in California and Texas. I retired in 1969 and reside in California with my wife Jenne and near my three daughters and five grandchildren. **ROBERT M. BERGER**, 5600 Jolly Court, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

As a native Italian, naturalized, I joined the 45th Infantry Division near Benevento, Italy about the month of October 1943. I was assigned at the Headquarters of the 180th Infantry as an Interpreter of Italian, German and French.

At the time, the 45th Infantry Division was commanded by Major General Troy H. Middleton. Many times I was "loaned" to the 179th Infantry for questioning of captured German officers and probing actions.

I encountered fightings in Amorosi over the river Calore and many others till the beachhead of Anzio where the 45th had one of its biggest battles of all times.

The capture of Rome was a joy for me as I could embrace my mother after so many years.

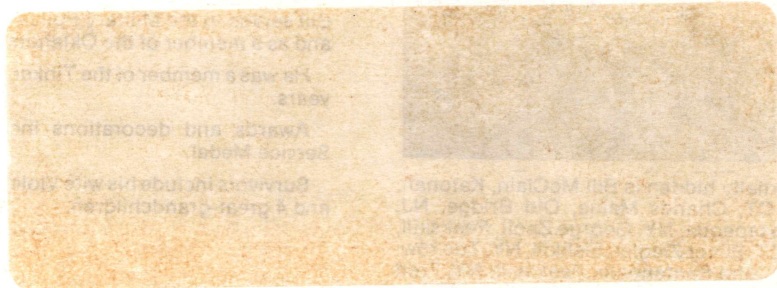
The invasion of Southern France took me all the way from French Riviera to Epinal until the end of the German campaign.

Discharged from the Army I went to work as a machine operator for National Automotive Fibres, Inc., at Waterford, NY. Afterwards in 1950 I worked at the Italian Consulate in New York as a clerk, until I joined the ALITALIA AIRLINES from where I retired in 1988. My wife and I decided to stay in Italy, coming back to the States when we want to, thanks to the free air tickets offered us by ALITALIA AIRLINES.

I am proud to belong to the 45th Infantry Division, and during my regular visits at the Sicily-Rome-Memorial Cemetery, walking through the lines of white marble crosses, I can see names of our comrades who were killed in action. A prayer for them and laying flowers over their graves reminds me that they were so young, just like us at the time!!! **ALFONSO FELICI**, Via Pasquale del Giudice, 15, 00175 ROME, Italy. (Editors Note: Alfonso was recruited by Raul Trevino, San Antonio, TX)

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



LIFE MEMBERS
Since Last Newsletter

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Otis Brown | Frank C. Robson |
| Larry E. Edmonston | John W. Seale |
| Charles M. Hill | Kenneth P. Thompson |
| Vernon J. Linder | Bert C. Waller |
| Kenneth Meyer | Francis E. Williams |
| John W. Peters | Gerald E. Winget |

NEW MEMBERS
Since Last Newsletter

10-YEAR

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| William D. Anderson, Jr. | Donald Hochstetler |
| James E. Bell | Douglas G. Johansen |
| E. L. Boyce Wilson | Daniel E. Latimer |
| Thomas R. Burns | Clifford E. Mapes |
| Arthur Castillo | Joseph Paul Martin |
| Charles R. Clem | Leroy H. Moore |
| Carl C. Collier | Jack H. Neathery, Jr. |
| James R. Dyson | Don C. Orr |
| Page W. Gearhart | Leonard Rose |
| Gilbert P. Gentry | Norman C. Sagen |
| George A. Gilbert, Jr. | Robert T. Smith |
| Thomas Allen Goff | A. J. Webster |
| Edwin E. (Bill) Hammons | Wm. R. Williams |

4-YEAR

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fred Anderson | Roosevelt Livingston |
| Clyde V. Antrim | Irvin O. Luisier |
| Charles Becker | Charles J. Maine |
| Robert M. Berger | Ralph A. Marinacci |
| Robert W. Bickley | Chester Maykowski |
| W. Walter Bishop, Jr. | Gerald O. Meny |
| Larry R. Burks | Isidro Mireles |
| Darrell Calkins | Herbert H. Mitasch |
| Charles E. Carpenter | John Mongillo |
| Paul D. Carter | James Morgia |
| Audrey Coats | Doyle K. Motesbocker |
| Donald M. Cook, Sr. | Thomas J. Nagele |
| Ardis Gerald Dagenhart | Billy W. Hensley |
| Luke Dixon | Dale A. Nolen |
| Francis Drexil | Carl E. Nordt |
| Herman M. Elliott | Orville Williams |
| Dwight E. Epperson | Paul E. Platt |
| Charles G. Fitting | Denzil Pryor |
| Frank W. Fitzgerald, Jr. | Bill E. Renfrow |
| Elgen K. Fujimoto | Arthur Rinehart |
| Manuel M. Gloria | Bernard J. Risse |
| Bobby Charles Gray | Charles M. Rogers |
| Bobby J. Gray | George C. Roper |
| Clyde H. Grier | Aaron E. Saathoff |
| Louis M. Hale | Vicente Raul Sanchez |
| Andrew R. Halverson, Jr. | Roger H. Shilling |
| David Hankey | U. G. Smith |
| Jerrell D. Harbert | Merritt Steffens |
| Charles Richard Harris | George Tatro |
| Thomas E. Harris | Daniel J. Thomas |
| Emmett B. Haynes | Robert D. Thompson, Sr. |
| Jurdon E. Hays | Cornelius J. Van Rossen |
| Charles Edwin Holland | Ambrogio Vitone |
| George Isagawa | William A. Walsh, Sr. |
| Thomas K. Johnson | John J. Weeks |
| James Y. Kamehiro | Charles N. Wheeler |
| Billy D. Kanouse | E. H. White |
| Irving L. Kintisch | Glenn Ray White |
| Alfred Kramer | Lloyd G. Wilson |
| Walter "Barney" Lawson | Daniel H. Witts |

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



I just returned from my first reunion of the 45th Infantry Division Association. We were treated as someone special by the people in Oklahoma City. Every aspect of the reunion was very efficient, from the time we got off the plane, until they took us back to the airport. We enjoyed it very much.

I served in Sicily, Italy, Anzio and Southern France with the Medical Detachment, 179th Infantry, attached to 3rd Battalion, 179th Infantry. I was hoping to see some of the people I served with in World War II, but I didn't see any.

THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL TIME!!! **GILBERT L. JANSEN**, Rt. Box 140, Lyford, TX 78569.

In reference to your letter in the VFW Magazine, I was really pleased about it. It seems like the 45th Division has been ignored all around since the war in Korea ended. I have read a lot of books about the Korean War and most do not list the 45th as a participating division.

I was a BAR man in a rifle squad in Fox Company, 179th Infantry. When the war ended I didn't have enough points to rotate, so they transferred me to the 24th Division at Yangu.

I would like to join the association, but I don't think there is any way that I can ever get to Oklahoma to a reunion. I didn't know there was a 45th Division Association in existence until I read your letter. It really did my heart good to read the article, I am almost 60 years old and I needed that. **BOB THOMPSON, SR**, 3463 Rorer Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

Enclosed is my application for membership in the 45th Infantry Division Association. I served in Battery A, 160th Field Artillery Battalion from November 1950 to September 1952.

After my separation from the Army in 1952, I went back to Portland, Oregon and later moved to California. I joined the Santa Maria City Fire Department in 1960 and retired after 28 years of service.

I have not attended a reunion, but the Lord willing, I plan to attend in 1991. **CHARLES N. WHEELER**, 335 South Capitol Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93454.

I first joined the 45th Infantry Division in 1936 as an enlisted member of Company I, 179th Infantry, Stillwater, OK. Our commanding officer at the time was "Hog Jaw" Williams. I don't remember too many details about that period, but I do know that the six years of service was creditable for longevity purposes and served to increase my pay throughout my years of service.

I received my commission as a 2d Lieutenant in 1941 and served with the 91st Infantry Division in World War II. I rejoined the 45th Division in 1946 and organized Company C, 180th Infantry when the division was reorganized after World War II.

I mobilized with the 45th in 1950 for the Korean War and served as Commander of the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 180th Infantry prior to being assigned as Division Intelligence Officer (G-2).

I attended the 91st Division reunion in Washington, D.C. in 1989 and now my wife of 49 years from Ada, Oklahoma is putting pressure on me to attend a 45th Division Association annual reunion. **JOHN D. LUCAS**, 1696 Dunstable Green, Annapolis, MD 21401.

I am enclosing a recent article about Bob Browne that appeared in the Mankato, Minnesota Free Press. I thought it might be of interest to other members of the association.

I have written a book about my experiences in Korea with the 45th Division in 1952, entitled "Circle of Courage." Bob Browne is one of the main heroes of my book.

Mansell Garrett, an enthusiastic member of the association and a member of Company L, 179th Infantry in Korea has already notified former Company L members about the book. We expect there will be quite a demand for it at the annual reunion in August. We hope it will be available in your gift shop.

The publisher of my book is: Vantage Press, 516 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001. The publisher will contact the association concerning the publication date and ordering information. **ALTON B. CHAMBERLIN**, Box 178, Brantingham, NY 13312.

I was with the 45th Division in World War II. I was a member of the 120th Engineer Battalion and my company was assigned to support the 157th Infantry Regiment throughout the war. To the best of my knowledge, out of 61 Divisions in the ETO, we had the most combat days.

I was a member of the association of the association years ago, and attended the reunion in New York City, but haven't attended one since. I would like to rejoin the association, please send me an application.

We have never attended a reunion in Oklahoma City, but hope to in the near future. **CHARLES F. LANE**, 5906 Castor, Philadelphia, PA 19149.

I just read in the 45th Division News where they named bridges on Highway 69 in Oklahoma after Captain Robert C. Dean and First Sergeant James T. McLeroy. I served with both of them in Company B, 180th Infantry.

I was assigned to the 45th Division in February 1941 at Camp Berkeley, TX. Just before we departed for Fort Devens, Massachusetts First Sergeant Bone was reassigned to another unit and McLeroy was promoted to First Sergeant.

I can't say enough about Sergeant McLeroy, he was one of the greatest soldiers and best First Sergeant the Army can produce. He was always where the action "was" and his men "were." I was about 30 or 40 yards from him when he was killed-in-action in Italy. **MANUEL VALENZUELA**, 301 South Broad Street A-610, Grove City, PA 16127.

Got quite a bang out of letter to the editor from Arnold W. Hirsch, Donora, PA. I was Platoon Sergeant, 1st Platoon, Company H, 179th Infantry attached to Company F, commanded by Captain Ness.

On 16 February 1944 a German 149 MM Self-Propelled Gun had destroyed the farm house Captain Ness was using for a Command Post. The Captain was standing at a corner trying to leave when a German soldier ran to the same corner. They were alternating looking around the corner. They were so close together I hesitated to shoot, but I did. Captain Ness ran to my position and told me he didn't know the German was there until he heard him moaning.

I was wounded by a hand grenade and captured just before daylight the next morning (17 February 1944). I have not seen Captain Ness since, but hope all is well with he and all his men. **QUINTON P. DUNN**, 301 Allen Road, Guthrie, OK 73044.

July 11, 1990 will mark 50 years since I left Company F, 180th Infantry at Hugo to join the regular army. On being sworn in at Dallas July 11, 1940, the Army notified the 45th Division of my enlistment. I was later credited with about 5 months national guard service.

My combat experience with the 45th Division was at Anzio in May 1944. At this time senior NCO's from divisions not yet committed to action were attached to units in combat. As a member of Anti-Tank Company 363rd Infantry, 91st Division, my group of 10 NCOs was attached to 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry for combat training.

At this time the 45th Division was just outside of Cisterna, Italy. The group I was with assisted first in manning 357mm Anti-Tank Guns. We were quickly accepted by the "Thunderbirds" we worked with and who 3 days later gave us 2 guns to operate, and put us to work. We did OK in our first combat experience. As you may know, the 57mm Anti-Tank Gun was never a well loved piece of equipment, but when used in short range, direct fire situations, such as we had at Anzio, it did quite well.

On the afternoon of 25 May 1944 the 45th again took Cisterna. The Southern element of 5th Army had reached the vicinity of Anzio and the Germans were pulling out. Later that evening the NCO group I was with was detached and returned to Naples to rejoin our units.

I ended the war in Trieste, Italy as part of a task force sent to stop Marshal Tito's Communist troops now "pouring" into Italy. Tito's troops quickly withdrew without a shot being fired. The war was over. I was separated from the service 19 July 1945 at Fort Lewis, WA. **JAMES E. BELL**, Lone Grove, OK.

Received information about the division association from Dick Wainwright. I am now an Episcopal Priest and serving as Rector of a Parish in Rumford, RI. I hope that I might sometime be able to attend a reunion.

I look forward to receiving news of the 45th Division and former buddies. **REV. GEORGE A GILBERT, JR**, 7 St. Michaels Court, Rumford, RI 02916.

I was inducted into the U.S. Army at Newark, New Jersey in October 1950 and immediately shipped to Camp Polk, Louisiana and assigned to Company B, 180th Infantry. I stayed with the unit during the Korean War and was discharged from the Army in August 1952.

Entered the law enforcement field in 1958 and am presently employed as Captain in charge of the Essex County New Jersey Homicide Unit, one of the busiest in the country.

Our company was originally from Konowa, Oklahoma. We had over 50 men from New Jersey and about 30 from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and a lot of Georgia guys too. Would like to hear from anyone from my unit who remembers me. **WILLIAM A. WALSH**, 19 Walnut Crescent, Montclair, NJ 07042.

I enlisted in Battery B, 189th Field Artillery 4 November 1935 at the age of 16. We were mobilized 16 September 1940 and I stayed with the unit as Chief of Firing Battery until 25 December 1944. I was discharged and transferred to the Inactive Reserve at Fort Chaffee, AR 16 August 1945.

Thunderbird Deaths (cont'd from page 3)

MARTIN N. "MARTY" SCHRECK, CENTEREACH, LONG ISLAND, NY. Deceased 28 July 1990.

Served with Company L, 180th Infantry from May 1942 until 1 December 1944, at which time he was captured at Miesesheim, France. He was held prisoner of war until released upon conclusion of the war in Europe.

Marty was one of the most decorated veterans of the 180th Infantry. Awards and decorations included, Distinguished Service Cross for action near Venafro, Italy, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart with five oak leaf clusters, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Marty and his wife Helen, were faithful attendants of the annual reunions in Oklahoma City, and will be sadly missed by all they met, and especially by all those who served with this magnificent soldier.

HAROLD W. DODWELL, Stroudsburg, PA. Deceased 17 April 1990. Harold was a member of the 179th Infantry during World War II. He was captured 11 September 1943 shortly following the invasion at Salerno. He was interned at Stalag II B, in Germany, until 13 April 1945.

He died of a very rare brain disease after a three month illness. Harold was in the banking business for 38 years, retiring in 1976.

Survivors include his wife Margaret, one son, two daughters and seven grandchildren.

JACK W. GREASBY, Norwalk, CA. Deceased 6 July 1990 of a massive heart attack. Jack was a native of Oklahoma and served with Headquarters Company, 179th Infantry during World War II. He faithfully attended all of the annual reunions.

Burial was at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, CA. Information submitted by old friend and buddy, Frank E. Stich of Collinsville, OK.

JOHN SCHAST, VILLAS, NJ. Deceased July 1990. John was a member of the 45th Division in World War II.

John's daughter, Carolann Mary Read, Villas, NJ furnished information concerning her father's death and stated that he was very proud to be a veteran and a member of the 45th Infantry Division Association.

Combat Chronicles - Oct 90

WITH THE 45th INFANTRY DIVISION, ITALY, OCTOBER 1943 — The division captured BENEVENTO, an important objective deep in the mountains, in late September. The British VIII Army was on the right of the division and the American 34th Infantry Division was on the left. Enemy defensive delaying action in the form of demolitions and mine-laying were encountered during the first days of October. Passage through BENEVENTO was delayed until the Engineers could clear some of the debris that clogged the streets. Bridges around the city were blown, so it was necessary that the division forward elements move through BENEVENTO.

Extremely heavy rain with a lot of hail fell all afternoon and night October 3rd and it seriously complicated any movement. This was the beginning of the Mud, Mules and Mountains era in Italy that was made famous by Bill Mauldin. From October through December 1943, the division was bogged down in the infamous Italian gumbo mud that made movement of vehicles extremely difficult, if not impossible. A mule pack train was organized under control of the division veterinarian to take food and ammunition to the infantrymen fighting high in the mountains. The mules brought down the wounded on the return trips.

By mid-October, the enemy had organized strong defensive positions north and west of FAICCHIO that hindered the advance of the division. German soldiers captured during this period testified to the violence and accuracy of our division artillery, which was the main factor in enemy soldiers scattering to the hills surrounding the town of FAICCHIO and losing contact with their units.

Throughout the remainder of October, the enemy continued to slowly retreat, blowing bridges and causing as much rear action havoc as possible to delay the advance of the 45th Division.

Throughout the remainder of October, the enemy continued to slowly retreat, blowing bridges and causing as much rear action havoc as possible to delay the advance of the 45th Division.

Although the 45th Division did not cross the VOLTURNO River under combat conditions, it did materially aid the divisions on its left by the division's movement from BENEVENTO to PIEDIMONTE. This movement deprived the enemy of the high ground where they could

control action at the river and deny the 34th Division crossing without excessive casualties.

November 1943 was an unusually trying month for the 45th Infantry Division. By November 8 the three weeks of intermittent heavy rainfall, which had saturated the countryside, became a continuous down-pour. During the rest of the month, there were only three days in which it did not rain, but those days were spoiled by rainfall during the night. It was realized that the division's heaviest and worst mountain fighting was still ahead of them. The terrain was impassable, the mountains impregnable, and the mud was impossible. The division had reached Kesselring's Winter Line, where the German forces in the vicinity of VENAFRO had dug in for a long stay and it was not possible to dislodge them with the weather also being an enemy. The valley in the vicinity of VENAFRO soon became known as Purple Heart Valley and the Pool Table since it was under constant interdiction from German artillery fire. Enemy aircraft were very active in the area and accounted for many vehicles and casualties on the road running in the open across Purple Heart Valley. Although the Germans had the advantage at this stage, the morale of their troops was low. Quite a few enemy soldiers came in and voluntarily gave themselves up, saying they had lost contact with their units and were demoralized. Many voiced the opinion that Germany had hopelessly lost the war.

On November 12 there was no contact with the enemy on the right, they had withdrawn at least as far as SELVONE, but along the FILIGNANO-ACQUAFONDATA road, the enemy was still fighting stubbornly from the advantage of well organized hill positions. During that day, Battery C 189th FA suffered heavy losses when enemy artillery knocked out all but one of their prime movers. Division artillery fired 2,475 rounds during the day, making it the heaviest firing of the month.

By November 17, it was evident that the enemy was running short of combat personnel. Many rear echelon personnel were being used as infantry. Often wounded enemy soldiers were not removed from the battlefield in a timely manner. Most of the enemy artillery rounds fired into the division's area were duds, indicating that the Germans had a shortage of ammunition and were having to use previously rejected ammunition.

From the landing of the division in Italy at SALERNO on September 10 to November 30, 1943, the division suffered 466 KIA, 78 DOW, 1918 WIA, and 6 taken prisoner. The division had captured 677 of the enemy during the period. Bad colds and trench foot were prevalent throughout the division.

Operations during the month of December largely consisted of attempts to break through the German Winter Line. The enemy was defending a natural line from where he had excellent observation and fields of fire. Heavy rainfall continued until mid-month then slackened off and turned into snow and sleet, which hampered Allied operations. At the end of the year 1943, the 45th Division occupied defensive positions in the MT. MOLINO and MT. ROTUNDO area with most division support units in and around VENAFRO. During the month 273 prisoners were taken. Division casualties were 121 KIA, 476 WIA, 26 missing and 2234 sick or injured. The division had been in Italy 113 days and during 106 of these the whole division was in combat.



45th Division News

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