

# 45th Division News

October, 1992

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

## COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Thunderbirds,

It is a great pleasure to correspond with you as your new 45th Infantry Division Association President for 1992-1993. I sincerely hope that everyone had an enjoyable reunion and is looking forward to our 48th Annual Reunion. Several members offered suggestions on how to improve our reunion. We will certainly take a look at those comments and do all that is possible to enhance our activities.

A total of 462 Thunderbirds registered at our registration booth. The secretary has contacted 71 non-members who registered to encourage them to join our association. Our banquets for Friday and Saturday evenings were well attended. A total of 430 meals were served on Friday, with 575 being served on Saturday.

We have several projects scheduled for the upcoming year. Our plan is to have committees address certain issues and report their findings and accomplishments during our next business meeting. One of my personal projects is to increase our association membership. I challenge every member to contact a fellow Thunderbird and encourage him to become a member of the association. With everyone's assistance we can increase our membership significantly. Each of us can make a difference.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your president and I'll do everything I can to uphold the excellent tradition of the 45th Infantry Division Association.

Regards,

Danny G. Marler

## PURPLE HEART WEEK IN OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma Legislature has established the last week of May each year as "Purple Heart Week" in Oklahoma. The Purple Heart, as established by George Washington in 1872 and revived in 1932, is a decoration of honor awarded to members of the Armed Forces and to United States citizens honorably wounded in action.

A wooden replica of the "Purple Heart Medal" was donated to the State of Oklahoma and presented to Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives Glen Johnson as the principal state representative present at the ceremony.

The Purple Heart replica was constructed and donated by Henry Chavez, a 45th Infantry Division Museum volunteer. The replica was constructed from thirteen different types of wood to depict the different colors in the Purple Heart Medal.

The replica will be displayed in an appropriate place within the State of Oklahoma Capitol Complex.

## EXCLUSIVE EXHIBIT FOR INDIAN VETERANS

The Department of Defense is gathering data on Indians who have served in US Military Services for a permanent display in the Pentagon Building, Washington, D.C.

The "Summary of Military Service" form requests data on Tribal membership/affiliation, Dates of Service, Military rank, civilian education, military schools and training, duty assignments including MOS, awards and decorations, service in combat zones, identification of wounds received, discharge data and photographs.

Individuals interested in furnishing their personal data can obtain the "Summary of Military Service" form by contacting the following individual:

Mr. Jerald H. Anderson

Equal Opportunity Manager

OASD (FM&P), ODASD (CPP/EO)

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense

Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

## THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS



### JOHN HICKMAN McCASLAND

You could call him "Hickey," or you could call him "Boggy Bottom," or you could call him "Mac," or you could call him any of many nicknames he was known by, but you dare not forget to call him in time to eat.

That was John McCasland, the Chief of Police (Provost Marshal) of the 45th Division and Postmaster of Oklahoma City. He was born in Atoka, Oklahoma, on 18 May, 1910, and lived in that area most of his life.

McCasland enlisted in Co. B 180th Infantry in 1926, then joined Co. D, 120th Medical Regiment in 1932, rising to the rank of First Sergeant at the time the Division was inducted into Federal Service in September, 1940. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 16 September, 1940, and served as Transportation and Maintenance Officer of the Medical Regiment until his promotion to First Lieutenant in April 1941 and assigned to the Division G-4 section. He was promoted to Captain in January, 1942.

On 21 July, 1943, after landing in Sicily, McCasland was promoted to Major and assigned as the Division Provost Marshal, the position he held throughout the remainder of the war.

He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on 27 January, 1946, and released from active service. He assisted in the reorganization of the 45th Infantry Division and was appointed Commander of Special Troops on 11 September, 1946. He was reassigned as Provost Marshal in February, 1948, and organized the 45th Military Police Company at Atoka.

"Hickey" McCasland was recalled to active duty with the 45th Division in September, 1950, and served as Provost Marshal of the division during combat in Korea. Upon return to civilian life in 1952, he was appointed G-1 of the 45th Division, was promoted to Colonel in April, 1961, and assigned as Chief of Staff of the division, a position he held until he retired from the military in 1964. McCasland was appointed acting Postmaster of Atoka, Oklahoma, in June, 1952, and held that position until July, 1953. He was appointed Assistant Adjutant General of Oklahoma in September, 1953, and served in this position until he was appointed Postmaster of Oklahoma City in 1961. He retired from the Postal Service in 1972.

John McCasland was appointed Chairman of the Oklahoma State Board of Public Affairs by Governor David Boren in January, 1975.

Among the many honors and awards bestowed on Colonel John H. McCasland are the Bronze Star with "V" Device and two Oak Leaf Clusters; Commendation Ribbon with Medal Pendant; and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation ribbon. He was awarded the Oklahoma distinguished Service Medal by Governor Henry Bellmon in August, 1965. His hobbies included fishing and bull frog hunting on Muddy Boggy in Atoka County.

On a visit to Ohio in January, 1982, John Hickman McCasland died at the age of 71 from a heart attack. He was survived by his wife, Opal, and one son, James Scott McCasland, a 1962 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.

"Hickey" McCasland was typical of the dedicated officers and men who helped make the "Thunderbirds" the awesome and awe-inspiring division that it was in World War II and Korea. He was a warm, friendly person who had a great sense of humor and an outstanding executive ability that proved to be of great benefit in his three professional careers. But, he was still a country boy from the boggy bottoms of Atoka.

# " GIFT SHOP MAIL ORDER FORM INSIDE "



## COMBAT CHRONICLES

### 157th INFANTRY REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

#### COMBAT IN ITALY, OCTOBER 1943

The 45th Infantry Division turned North in the vicinity of BENEVENTO, moving up the spine of Italy, through the rugged mountains of central Italy. The British VIII Army was on the division's right, and the American 34th Infantry Division was on the left.

The 157th RCT moved by motors on October 2 to an assembly area SW of FRIGENTO. They were then moved by motors across the CALORE River to the vicinity of S. GIORGIO, where they were ordered to be prepared to move on BENEVENTO on division order. The 3rd Battalion entered BENEVENTO at approximately 1030 on October 4 and advanced 6 or 7 kilometers North of the CALORE River, encountering only harassing artillery fire.

The 189th FA Battalion, in general support of the 157th, received considerable enemy artillery fire at the rate of 1 round per minute. The 160th FA Battalion was ordered up from TEORA to assist the 189th. The 158th FA was in direct support of the 157th Infantry in their advance.

And the rains came . . . any movement became extremely difficult. The 2nd Battalion received small arms and MG fire from the vicinity of PONTE and was continuously shelled by artillery during the night of October 6th.

Colonel Ankcorn, 157th Regimental commander, was severely wounded and, on October 10, Colonel John Church was relieved as division Chief of Staff and assigned as commander of the 157th Infantry Regiment.

Rain, rain, rain . . . every day it rained, making it almost impossible to move heavy equipment. Foxholes were full of water, the roads were impassable, and diseases, such as Trench Foot, Jungle Rot, Malaria, and respiratory ailments, were prevalent among soldiers of the division.

On October 16, the town of FAICCHIO was taken by the 157th after receiving extremely heavy small arms and MG fire from defenders of the town. On October 17, the small town of GIOIA was taken but passage through the narrow streets was delayed due to debris from demolished buildings and houses filling the streets.

The 158th FA Battalion fired the first propaganda leaflets for the division, resulting in four prisoners surrendering with the leaflets in hand.

On October 20, the division ended 40 days of continuous combat. This marked the longest period that an entire American division in the European Theatre of Operations had been in the line without relief. Even though the Infantry was relieved by elements of the 3rd US Division, the 45th Artillery continued to provide support to other units in the line, assisting the 34th US Infantry Division on several occasions in their crossing of the VOLTURNO River.

#### CROSSING OF THE VOLTURNO RIVER IN ITALY

By Louis Scott

In early October 1943, the American forces in Italy came upon the first great water barrier of the Italian campaign at the VOLTURNO River. The Germans intended to use the steep, rocky northern bank of the river as a line of defense.

Contrary to the belief of some, the 45th Infantry Division did not make an assault crossing of the VOLTURNO River. However, the actions of the division in moving from BENEVENTO to PIEDIMONTE materially aided the division to the left of the 45th, the 34th US Infantry Division, in their crossing of the VOLTURNO.

When the 45th Division turned north from TELESE and AMOROSI, it deprived the Germans of the high ground running generally along the TELESE - S. SALVATORE - FAICCHIO - PIEDIMONTE road. If the enemy had held this ground, it would have afforded him good artillery positions and excellent observation of the right flank of the 34th Division. As the 45th moved north and occupied the commanding terrain, they were a continuous threat to the enemy on the west of the VOLTURNO River. The division's movement and vicious fighting caused the enemy to hasten his withdrawal.

Follow the actions of the three regimental combat teams of the 45th Infantry Division during the month of October, 1943, in this and the next two issues of the 45th Division News as they fought their way forward in continuous rain that made the roads impassable and fields a loblolly of pure red gumbo mud that stuck like glue to equipment and made the feet of the soldiers almost too heavy to lift. Enemy defense was exceedingly stubborn with heavy small arms and MG fire; they continued to blow bridges and overpasses that hampered the advance of Allied troops. Mines laid in the roads and fields were a challenge to our Engineers.

## MONUMENT DEDICATION

**COMPANY D, 179TH INFANTRY:** The focal point of the Company D, 179th Infantry annual reunion conducted 7-8 August, 1992, at the Holiday Inn, Norman, Oklahoma was the dedication of monument to the unit which had been previously constructed and installed on the ground of the 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City, OK.

Posting of the colors was accomplished by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 568, Oklahoma City. Invocation and Benediction were delivered by Harry Hughes. Master of ceremonies was Russell Haight. Commanders comments were made by Charles Goddard and Jesse Smith (for Bill Strong), comments were made by Frank Pickel and Rex Wilson.

**COMPANY G, 180TH INFANTRY:** A monument dedication was conducted during the annual reunion of the 45th Infantry Division by former members of the unit, other members of the 180th Infantry and several dignitaries.

Posting of the colors was by the Governor's Honor Guard. Master of ceremonies was Don Livesay. Remarks by Gary D. Maynard, The Adjutant General of Oklahoma, and Harry W. Barnes.

The monument had been previously constructed and installed on the grounds of the 45th Infantry Division Museum.

## MUDDY BOGGY BRIDGES DEDICATION

Three bridges over Muddy Boggy Creek in Southeastern Oklahoma have recently been dedicated in honor of Thunderbird veterans of World War II. All honorees were former members of 180th Infantry Regiment. Bridges dedicated are all in the Oklahoma State Highway System.

The "**JOHN O. LINTON BRIDGE**" is located on State Highway 31, 3 miles Northeast of Coalgate, OK. Sergeant Linton was member of Company M, 180th Infantry Regiment. He was captured by the German Army in December, 1943, during the Naples-Foggia Campaign, and died while a Prisoner of War on 20 January, 1944. Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 72, authorizing naming of the bridge, was Co-authored and sponsored by Senator Gene Stipe and William Gustafson and Representative Walt Roberts. The dedication was held 8 August, 1992, at the bridge site. The Keynote speaker was MG Gary Maynard, The Adjutant General of OK, with additional remarks by BG Harry Barnes, President of the 180th Infantry Association, and Dr. John O. Linton, Jr., son of the honoree. Miss Michele Linton, granddaughter of Sgt. Linton, presented a musical tribute.

The "**ROBERT C. DEAN**" and "**JAMES T. McLEROY**" Bridges were dedicated 12 September 1992. These bridges are located on the North side of Atoka, OK, on Highway 69. Both honorees were members of Company B, 180th Infantry. Dean was the Company Commander and McLeroy was the First Sergeant. McLeroy was killed-in-action in Southern Italy in 1943 shortly after the Salerno Invasion. Dean survived the war and returned to Atoka where he was an osteopathic physician. The south-bound bridge crossing the Muddy Boggy was dedicated to McLeroy, the north-bound to Dean. The Senate Concurrent Resolution was sponsored by Senators Billy Mickle, Gene Stipe and Representative Walt Roberts.

## USS ANZIO COMMISSIONED

More than 800 veterans of the Anzio Beachhead Campaign gathered on 2 May, 1992, at the Navy's largest naval base at Norfolk, VA, to witness their heroism commemorated by Commissioning of the USS Anzio, a Guided Missile Cruiser.

The Anzio Beachhead Organization held their annual reunion in conjunction with the commissioning. Thunderbird Arnold Hirsch is currently president of that organization.

Several Thunderbirds attended the ceremonies, including Odell Shaw, Charles S. "Hook" Johnson and Brummett Echohawk. Echohawk had previously designed and painted a mural for permanent display on the ship.

The news release covering the ceremony stated that 80,000 German troops opposed the 40,000 British, Canadian and American troops comprising the allied forces. There were 25,000 allied casualties and 22 Congressional Medals of Honor awarded during the beachhead operation.



## THUNDERBIRD COLORS RETURN TO KOREA

After about a forty year absence the colors of the Thunderbird flew once again over the Land of the Morning Calm. On June 25th, the 42nd anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, twenty one Thunderbirds from Hawaii took part in memorial services at the National Cemetery in Seoul, Korea. The Thunderbird flag, carried by veteran and combat wounded Clayton Murakami preceded the assembled veterans who came from the United States, Canada, Australia and Great Britain. The flag, which originally flew over the 45th Division Museum and Division Association headquarters in Oklahoma was the only foreign colors displayed and had the distinction of leading the entire procession of visiting Korean War veterans during the ceremonies honoring the war dead.

The memorial service was only one of many moving moments that occurred during the visit to Korea. Visitors were the guests of the Korean Veterans Association, who made the visit extremely successful by providing deluxe accommodations, gourmet meals and tremendous hospitality.

Thunderbird veteran David Suzuki was designated by the KVA to represent all US veterans in placing a wreath at the Battle Monument site near the Imjin River. The Hawaii group placed flowers at the base of the Hawaii flagpole. Linus Chism from Oklahoma, a Marine veteran, placed flowers at the Oklahoma flagpole.



Left, Louis Baldovi, president Hawaii chapter and Lee Dong Koo, Chief of Revisit Program, Korean Veterans Association.

## ADDITIONAL SIGNS FOR 45TH DIVISION MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Additional signage has been approved for State Highway 3, which has been designated as the 45th Infantry Division Memorial Highway.

The State Department of Transportation has approved 34 additional signs. Nine signs will be placed in the Southeast part of the State to supplement those already up between Ada and Broken Bow. Four of the nine signs will be placed between Broken Bow and the Arkansas border. The other five signs will be between Ada and Oklahoma City.

Twenty five signs will be placed in the Northwest part of the State. These signs will cover the cities of Okarche, Kingfisher, Watonga, Seiling, Woodward and thence on West through the Panhandle, with a sign on the Colorado border.

Senator William G. Gustafson, El Reno, Oklahoma, was a prime mover in pursuing this project and assuring that final action was positive. Gustafson is a combat veteran of Company B, 179th Infantry regiment, during the Korean War and was seriously wounded during his service.

## LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

I was a member of Company B and Company D, 180th Infantry Regiment in Italy, France and Germany. I would like to hear from anyone who remembers me.

**EDWIN MIKRUT**, 5212 South Lotus Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638

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I would like to contact any persons who were members of Company L or Company M, 279th Infantry Regiment, during the period 1952/1953 in Korea. I am particularly interested in a Sergeant called Blackie and a Radio Operator who went by the nickname of Brooklyn.

**MAX DAVID BAUMBACK**, 1869 West 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223

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I have just learned of the existence of your association. For years I have wanted to be in touch with people who served with me in the Italian Campaign. I would like to advertise in the 45th Division News for anyone who was serving in Company F, 180th Infantry Regiment, during the campaigns in Sicily, Salerno and Anzio to contact me.

I plan to attend the reunion in Oklahoma City during August and hope I will see someone from my unit.

**JOHN L. FALGNER**, 952 Fayetteville Road, Blanchester, OH 45107

## REUNION NOTICES

**45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION:** 19-22 August, 1993, THE RADISSON INN, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK.

**189 FA BATTALION:** 23-25 April, 1993, The Embassy Suites Hotel, Tulsa, OK. Contact Art Corley, Coordinator, Route 1, Box 690, Big Cabin, OK 74332-9520, (918) 782-9500.

**645 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION:** 23-25 April, 1993, The Embassy Suites Hotel, Tulsa, OK. Contact T.J. Hunker, Coordinator, P.O. box 127, Wheatland, OK 73097, (405) 745-2433.

## REUNION REPORTS

**COMPANY D, 120TH ENGINEER BN (KOREA)** held their fourth annual reunion 13 June, 1992, in Amarillo, TX. Ninety-eight members and guests were at the banquet which featured Texas beef. The reunion was dedicated to the memory and honor of all the comrades killed and wounded in action during the Korean War. The fifth reunion will be held 12 June, 1993, in North Carolina.

**JAMES C. METCALF**, 11743 Eton Drive, Colton, CA 92324

**COMPANY M, 279TH INFANTRY REGIMENT** held their 1992 reunion 7-9 August at the Holiday Inn in Lynchburg, VA. Twenty-four members and guests were present. Hosts for the occasion were Boyed and Janet Bunley. (Submitted by Max David Baumbach)

**COMPANY G, 179TH INFANTRY (KOREA)** held their reunion 22-25 July, 1992, at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Madison, WI. A total of 72 persons attended, 39 members and 33 wives and other guests. Festivities included sightseeing tours, a banquet, dance and lots of conversation. Thirteen states were represented with Wisconsin and Oklahoma having the most attendees. Seventeen members attended for the first time.

**PENN V. RABB**, 728 NW 46th Street, Lawton, OK 73505

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL EUROPEAN TOUR

The United States Holocaust Memorial Council is planning special memorial activities in November 1992 to bring together the officers and soldiers who liberated concentration camps with the survivors whom they liberated. Three camps have been selected: Dachau, Buchenwald and Mauthausen. The U.S. Army Center for Military History has identified the 45th Division as a "liberating division" of Dachau camp.

The most critical aspect of this project is the short lead time. The group leaves from New York City on 5 November 1992 and returns on 15 November 1992. Current plans call for two primary and one alternate liberator per camp. Since the Center of Military History recognizes portions of five divisions as liberators of Dachau and its subcamps, they will prioritize any responses on a first come, first served basis.

The cost of the tour is estimated between \$3,400 and \$3,700 per person. Participants will also be responsible for the cost of transportation to and from JFK Airport in New York, where the tour group will assemble.

Points of contact:

Linda Lazar or Cheryl Salinas

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

2000 L Street, NW (Suite 717)

Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: 202/822-6464; FAX: 202/861-0520

LTC Randy Elms or Master Sgt Jeff Kahn

DOD World War II Commemoration Committee

Headquarters, Department of the Army

Pentagon, Room 3E524

Washington, DC 20310-0107

Telephone: 703/692-2143; FAX: 703/692-2162



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Memories associated with the 45th Division during the Korean conflict keep coming back to me as I grow older and less active. In the week just passed I gave a program on Japan and Korea using slides and materials from my service with the 45th Division in Hokkaido, Japan and Korea.

I served with the 180th Infantry for most of my time with the Division, however, I went to Korea with the 120th Medical Battalion because I was still recovering from a broken leg suffered in Hokkaido. When the leg healed I went back to the 180th.

I would like to locate my Chaplain's Assistant, Edgar P. Mooneyham. If anyone knows his address, I would be grateful to you for sharing it with me.

I am now 74 years of age and still active. I am retiring (for the 5th time) as of 28 June from my present Interim Pastorate at Kingman, KS. I plan to make this one the final retirement.

I would be grateful to hear from any of my friends from those days in Japan and Korea.

**CHAPLAIN WALTER A. HARGRAVES**, 1377 Highland Drive, McPherson, KS 67460

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Enclosed is my long overdue application for membership in the association.

I was with the 189th Field Artillery from the time the 45th Division entered Korea until September, 1952. I was with the 1st Cavalry Division and was reassigned to the 45th Division when they relieved the 1st Cavalry Division in Korea. I was a Forward Observer until June, 1952, at which time I was assigned as Executive Officer of Battery A.

After Korea, I returned to civilian life and was in the investment business for 40 years until my retirement 2 years ago. I also stayed in the Army Reserve and retired 6 years ago as a Colonel.

I would like to know if the 45th Division received a Presidential Unit Citation for Korean Service during the January-September, 1952, time frame?

Thank you for your help and I hope to attend future reunions.

**CHARLES M. CULLEN**, 6 Gerard Terrace, Lexington, MA 02173

*(Editor's note: The 45th Division did not receive a Presidential Unit Citation during this time frame. PUC's are not normally awarded above the Battalion level.)*

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Looks like I am about forty years late. Stu Johnson called me about the reunion and since August is slow down on the farm, we called in our reservations for the 21st and 22nd of August at the Hilton in Oklahoma City.

After Korea I went back to the farm, got married and have one son and two daughters. Our farm is located near St. Louis on the Illinois side where I-255 and I-270 cross.

There isn't a day goes by that I don't think about my time served in Company B, 179th Infantry in Korea.

**GORDEN G. GASS, GASS FARMS**, 4438 Gass Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

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I was a member of the 160th Field Artillery Battalion in Korea, and have been in Pediatric Practice in Gastonia, NC, for the past 37 years.

During recent years I have visited with the following former 45th Division members: Eugene Wallace, Gastonia, NC, Dan Benedict, Denver, CO, a former Surgeon with the 179th Infantry and General Fisher who brought the 45th home from Korea.

I recently visited the 45th Division Museum and was very favorably impressed.

**ROBERT E. CHAMBERS**, 2544 Sheffield Drive, Gastonia, NC 28054

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Thanks for printing the story (my letter) about Corporal Jack Korakian being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumously) for action in combat near Hyonyogdae, Korea, in January, 1952. I have received some "moving" letters from comrades.

I omitted his unit designation which was Company E, 279th Infantry Regiment. This is important to a lot of Thunderbirds.

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

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I was a member of the 180th Infantry Regiment in Korea, after the 45th Infantry Division returned to Oklahoma, I was then assigned to Company C, 14th Combat Engineer Battalion.

After returning to the United States I moved from New York to Virginia where I finished college at Virginia Commonwealth University where I was then employed as an instructor, with additional responsibility for establishing a management training center for Virginia businesses. I later taught at the Army Logistics Management Center at Fort Lee, Virginia, and was also advisor to a team working on a Viet Nam project during that war.

I am now retired and living in Ohio during the summer and Florida during the Winter.

**MATHEW J. McGRATH**, 8630 Lindbergh Boulevard, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

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I joined Company E, 179th Infantry in October, 1943, just outside of Naples, Italy, and was with them until wounded at Traverence on December 5, 1943. I was evacuated to a General Hospital in Naples and then to North Africa. I was later reclassified and assigned to the Headquarters of the 37th General Hospital.

I am now retired from the Office Machine Business after 44 years. My wife Etta and I have been married for 47 years and two of our four sons were also in the military.

I consider it an honor to again be a part of the "Thunderbirds" and look forward to receiving the 45th Division News.

**WM (BILL) BATTERMAN**, Route 4, Box 26, Wautoma, WI 54982

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I served in Company D, 120th Engineer Battalion in Korea during 1952-1953. My favorite memory is helping construct the South boundary fence on the DMZ, we had a three day mission, working 22 hours the first, 18 the second and completed the project on the third day.

I have some photographs that I would like to donate to the museum at a later date.

**CHARLES L. BUTLER**, 828 Belvedere Drive, Columbus, GA 31907

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I am currently working and living in Camp Page located in Chun'chon, Republic of Korea, where I originally joined the 45th Division as a replacement infantryman in March, 1953. I was initially assigned to Company K, 180th Infantry which was in position at Sandbag Castle. After about 30 days we were relieved and placed in Division reserve, but had to immediately return to the MLR because the ROK Division that replaced us had not held their positions during the last major push by the North Koreans at the

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Hwachon Reservoir system. We stayed in that vicinity until the truce when we moved to Yanggu. We stayed there until the "Flags" were brought back to the United States.

My wife and I are currently on the faculty of the University of Maryland, Asia Division, which we joined in August, 1990. We will complete our assignment in July. Wartime Korea was so much different that what has happened to this country in the past ten years, however, there is a great deal of 'deja vu' being here as a civilian.

**PAUL H. TEDESCO**, The University of Maryland-AD, Unit #15002, APO AP 96208

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I joined the 45th Division in 1949 along with several of my buddies, "all under age". When we were mobilized in 1950, because of our age, we were all released from our units and returned to civilian life.

After Korea I rejoined the 245th Tank Battalion and was the provisional First Sergeant for students assigned to units throughout Oklahoma and attending Oklahoma A&M at Stillwater, OK.

In 1956 I entered the active army as a 2nd Lieutenant and served until 1986. I served in Viet Nam from 1967 to 1968 and was actively involved in the TET offensives. At the same time another early starter was there, "Jack" Edward B. Derr, who was one of the bravest men I ever knew.

I owe my success in the military due to my experience as an enlisted member in the 245th Tank Battalion and my attendance at the Advanced Armored NCO School at Fort Know, KY, in 1954.

**GERALD D. "JERRY" ALLGOOD**, 160 Dolomite Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

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I joined the 45th Division at Camp Berkeley, TX, in April, 1942, upon assignment from the Infantry Replacement Center at Camp Roberts, CA. The first person I encountered was MG William S. Key. It was the noon hour, and he was the only person in the headquarters building.

My original assignment was to Company L, 180th Infantry commanded by Captain Robert G. Cates, Jr., Atoka, OK, who was the most outstanding officer I knew in both the Infantry and Air Force in World War II.

The 45th was in the process of moving and the result was, that in less than a month from our wedding day, 3 April, 1942, at Camp Roberts, we were stationed at Fort Devens, MA. I have fond memories of the 13 months I spend in the division.

**HENRY STAGG RENZ**, 3500 Purdue, Dallas, TX 75225

## TIDBITS

Returning from an Alaskan cruise on Sunday, 5 July, Bud and Dot Schreiber stopped to visit with my wife and me in Puyallup, WA. Fellow Company G, 180th members during World War II, Bud and Bernice Scott from Cathlamet, WA, and Dan and Clara Monaghan from Tacoma, WA, also came by to visit during their stay.

We enjoyed lots of good food, fellowship and rehashed some of our more interesting war stories.

**EDWARD A. ROEHLER**, 8307 173rd Street East, Puyallup, WA 98373

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**Keith Everett**, 260 South Atlanta Drive, Tucson, AZ 85747, is compiling material for a book on the art of Sniping. He said he hoped to produce a book that was functional as well as entertaining. If you have a story to tell on this subject, he would like to hear from you.

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**Ted L. Maloy**, member of the 45th Division Association Board of Directors, and a charter member of the Texas Lone Star Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association, recently participated in a flag raising ceremony at the Houston, Texas, City Hall honoring those Killed-in-action and Missing-in-action during the Korean War.

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**Ernest Childers and Brummett Echohawk** were on hand at Childers Middle School in Broken Arrow, OK, recently. The school was named in honor of Childers. Childers was there to sign a few student yearbooks, like about 600. Echohawk, a nationally known Native American Artist, drew sketches and entertained the students. Childers and Echohawk served in the 45th Division in World War II, Echohawk in the 179th Infantry and Childers in the 180th Infantry. Childers is the recipient of a Congressional Medal of Honor for combat action in Southern Italy in September, 1943.

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**Maurice R. "Dick" Wainwright**, 9001 E. Rosewood Street, Tucson, AZ 85710-2659, is doing a great job locating and corresponding with members of the Adjutant General Section, Headquarters 45th Infantry Division, during the Korean War.

In addition to accomplishing his primary purpose, he has accumulated some rare documents that he plans to donate to the museum for safekeeping in the archives.

Dick has been instrumental in establishing the Tucson Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association. During his work in this organization, and the related action of the ground breaking ceremony in Washington, D.C., for the "Korean War Memorial", he encountered the remark "WHO CARES?". Dick cares, others care and we all need to care or the "Forgotten War" will be forgotten, period.

(TIDBITS cont'd on back page)



### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

World War II \_\_\_\_\_

Korean War \_\_\_\_\_

Post Korean War \_\_\_\_\_

(SPECIAL NOTE: 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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# THUNDERBIRD DEATHS

**CHARLES F. CARSON**, Walnut Ridge, AR, deceased June, 1992, in Jonesboro, AR. Charles was a member of the 157th Infantry during World War II.

He was born at O'Kean, Arkansas, and moved to Walnut Ridge in 1949. Charles was a retired television repairman and a member of the American Legion, 157th Infantry Association and the 45th Infantry Division Association.

Grandsons and a nephew served as pallbearers for the funeral service. Survivors include his wife, Dorthy Elwanda, two daughters, four sons and a host of relatives.

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**WILLIAM R. CRISS**, Greenwood, MS, deceased June, 1992, from heart failure following surgery. Burial was in Greenwood where he has made his home since 1945.

He served with 160th FA from 1941 to 1945. William was awarded the Bronze Star for combat action at Salerno in 1943.

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

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**FRANK J. CROSSER**, Lindale, TX, deceased June, 1992. Frank was a member of the 45th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop during World War II and left the troop at Anzio. He originated and organized the annual troop reunions. According to Ben Rosenthal, Frank was a wonderful after dinner speaker and one never tired of his brand of humor.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth, one son, one daughter and three grandchildren.

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**CHARLES D. DILLMAN**, Norman, OK deceased August, 1992. He was a Korean veteran, having served as a member of the 179th Infantry Regiment during the period 1950-1952.

Charles was a lifetime employee of the Oklahoma Military Department as an employee of the United States Property and Fiscal Officer. He was a faithful and trusted employee and he will be missed by his many friends in the Norman and Oklahoma City area.

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**GERALD E. DURBIN**, Midwest City, OK, deceased September, 1992. He was inducted with the 45th Division in 1940 as a member of the 120th Medical Regiment and entered pilot training in 1942. In September, 1945, he returned to Oklahoma City and entered the Office Supply business.

In October he was recalled to active duty as a squadron commander in the 137th Fighter Bomber Wing. He later received an appointment in the regular Air Force and remained on active duty until retirement in 1967.

Gerald is survived by his wife, Louise, one son, one daughter and three grandchildren.

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**RAYMOND W. MEYER**, Tallmadge, OH, deceased February, 1992. Raymond was a member of the 120th Engineer Battalion during World War II.

He retired in 1979 as a chemical and plastics engineer from Gencorp.

Raymond is survived by his wife, Dorothea, one son, one daughter and three grandchildren.

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**EDWARD J. PASOWICZ**, Pulaski, WI, deceased August, 1992, at a Green Bay, WI, hospital. Frank was a member of the 120th Engineer Battalion during World War II.

He worked for the Chicago, Northwestern Railroad in the early 1950's and served as the Pulaski Chief of Police for 22 years.

Edward was the recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during combat action. He was a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Anzio Beachhead Association, 157th Infantry Association and the 45th Infantry Division Association.

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**PETE PHILLIPS**, Oklahoma City, OK, deceased June, 1992. Pete was a member of the 180th Infantry during the Korean War. After graduating from High School in Allen, OK, he went to California to work in the ship yards, where he received his draft notice. He came back to Oklahoma for induction into the Armed Forces. He completed basic training and was sent overseas to Japan.

Pete joined the 45th Division after World War II and was activated with the division for the Korean War. After Korea he rejoined the National Guard where he attained the rank of Colonel.

Pete worked for Farmers Group Insurance for 30 years prior to his retirement in 1990. Since that time he has continued a free lance flying service piloting news helicopters for Channels 4 and 9 in Oklahoma City.

He is survived by his wife, Irene, and a host of friends. Pete was a "best friend" to everyone. At Pete's funeral service, the Olivet Baptist Church was filled to overflowing with people from all walks of life.

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**WERNER R. SAAR**, St. Paul, MN, died from complications following suffering a broken hip. Werner was a Chaplain with Headquarters 45th Division Artillery in World War II.

He and his wife visited the museum several years ago. Later Werner contributed several artifacts and photographs to the museum.

Survivors include his wife, Amy, two daughters, one son, and four grandchildren.

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**MARIO A. TERESI**, Buffalo, NY. Mario was a member of Cannon Company, 157th Infantry Regiment, throughout World War II. He was assigned to the division at Fort Devens in May, 1942. Mario was discharged from the Army at Fort Dix, NJ, in 1945.

Mario's death was reported by Peter Cervone, a fellow Thunderbird who served with Mario.

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**HENRY ALLEN WALTON**, West Memphis, AR, deceased 18 August, 1992, after suffering a heart attack. Henry was a member of the 179th Infantry Regiment during World War II and was a dedicated "Thunderbird". He is a "LIFE" member of the 45th Infantry Division Association and the 179th Infantry Association.

He looked forward to the annual reunions and enjoyed talking with his buddies and exchanging war time stories and adventures.

Henry was a member of Marion Baptist Church, Marion, AR, and was a devoted husband and father. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Henry is survived by his wife, Margaret (a devoted Thunderbird wife), two daughters, four sons, 12 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.





(Date)

## T-SHIRTS

Blue TB S/M/L/XL	\$8.00	_____
White TB S/M/L/XL	9.00	_____
Black TB L/XL	9.00	_____
White, Child, TB	8.00	_____
6/8, 10/12, 14/16		

## INSIGNIA

TB Regular Size, Cloth	2.00	_____
TB Miniature Size, Cloth	1.25	_____
Swastika, Replica, Cloth	2.50	_____
TB Magnet	1.00	_____
TB Decal	.50	_____

### MISCELLANEOUS

Post Cards, Museum	.25	
Post Cards, Willie & Joe	.25	
Book, TB, Add/Tel Magnet		
Gold	3.00	
Book, Add/Tel, Black Lthr	1.50	
Card Caddy, TB, Black Lthr	2.00	
Photo Caddy, TB, Brwn Lthr	2.00	
Car Shade, Solar TB	12.00	
Stationery, Museum View	3.00	
Bumper Sticker, TCDDR	.50	
Tote Bag, Canvas, TB	6.00	
License Plate, 45th Museum	3.00	
Book Mark, Lthr, Red/Gold	2.50	
Coffee Mug TB	4.00	
Tape Measure, TB	2.00	

10. 189th Field Artillery Battalion
11. Biography 45th Infantry Division
12. 45th Division Training Regiment
13. 158th Field Artillery Battalion
14. Dachau and Its Liberation
15. 171st Field Artillery Battalion (1942-1945)
18. Participation in Wars of Country by  
Citizen Soldiers and Organizations
19. 189 Field Artillery Band (1926-1942)

45th Infantry Division Korea	12.00	_____
Thunderbird WW II and Korea	5.50	_____
The Thunderbird Tradition (Museum)	2.50	_____
Bill Mauldin's Army	15.00	_____
Citizen Soldiers	25.00	_____

**MONOGRAPHS** \$2.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

1. From Swastika to Thunderbird
2. 279th Infantry Regiment
3. 70th Field Artillery Brigade
4. 1st OK Field Artillery and Its Successors
5. Naval Gunfire Support of the Landings in Sicily
6. 160th Field Artillery Battalion
7. 171st Field Artillery Battalion (1946-1968)
8. 45th Division at Anzio
9. Operations near Reipertswiller, France

## BOOKS

157th Infantry Regiment	\$23.00	_____
158th Infantry Regiment	15.00	_____
179th Infantry Regiment	25.00	_____
180th Infantry Regiment	23.00	_____
279th Infantry Regiment	7.00	_____
45th Infantry Division WW II	23.00	_____

SUB-TOTAL	\$	
POSTAGE/HANDLING	3.00	
TOTAL	\$	

**NOTE: ENCLOSE CHECK/MONEY ORDER FOR TOTAL.  
PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.**

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:

GIFT SHOP, 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION MUSEUM  
2145 NE 36TH STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73111



**James Bird**, a member of the 160th Field Artillery Battalion during World War II, was awarded a Silver Star for combat action in an observation post in the mountains near Cassino, Italy. Bird says being a patriot is not just rising to salute the flag, it is knowing your civics and writing to your representatives. For the past 40 years, he has been writing to politicians, giving them a big chunk of what is on his mind. He says not enough people take the time to express their opinions to politicians.

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**Stephen J. Lofgren**, a historian with the US Army Center of Military History, is compiling historical information regarding fratricide (friendly fire) in the Korean War.

If you have information concerning "friendly fire" incidents that you care to share, your report should include the following: date, place, unit(s) involved, tactical situation, weather, weapon type, casualties and any unique or significant circumstances. You are encouraged to describe events as fully as possible to permit the greatest possible understanding of the incident.

Mailing address as follows: **Stephen J. Lofgren**, US Army Center of Military History, ATTN: DAMH-RAP, 1099 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005-3402.

**Logan Catterall**, 279th Infantry, Korea, attended the ground breaking ceremony for the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., during June, 1992.

There were approximately 5,000 in attendance and Logan things he may have been the only 45th Division veteran present. He stated that when President Bush made his opening remarks he made the comment, "Gentlemen, this is your day", that at least a thousand voices responded in unison, "IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME".

After the ceremony, Logan's wife told him that when taps was played, tears were rolling down his face. He said that he hadn't cried since he was a kid.

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## 45th Division News

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

**Danny G. Marler** ..... President

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

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

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

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

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

DO NOT SEND ITEMS THAT MUST BE RETURNED!

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The following members were elected to the association Board of Directors during the annual business meeting 21 August, 1992. Terms of office will expire in 1995:

Ted L. Maloy, Houston, TX

Robert L. Henthorn, Edmond, OK

William G. Evans, Yukon, OK

Thomas A. Meyers, Tuttle, OK

Michael T. Jackson, Oklahoma City, OK

William R. Wilson, Jr., Yukon, OK

### NEW OFFICERS FOR 1992-1993

The following were elected by the Board of Directors during the board meeting conducted 21 August, 1992:

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Danny G. Marler

Michael T. Jackson

James A. Pahdoco

Secretary Rex Wilson and Treasurer Neal Dodds agreed to serve in their respective assignments for 1992-1993.

### LIFE MEMBERS

#### SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Eugene R. Edwards

Leo P. Morley

Doris Plaplan

#### NEW MEMBERS

#### SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

##### 10-YEARS

William E. Batterman

Andrew S. Beno

Delbert F. Botting

John C. Lantz

Thomas A. Meyers

George J. O'Brien

Edward Purcell

George Stueber

Perry H. Townsend, Jr.

Clarence A. Turner

Lavoy Ray Wall

##### 4-YEARS

John D. McAdams

Charles A. Beedon

Albert J. Bekampis

James B. Blevins

William Henry Blizzard

Fred C. Brownlee

George A. Buhr

Robert A. Busick, Jr.

Charles L. Butler

Robert E. Chambers

Charles M. Cullen

Lyndall C. Fisher

Leonard A. Forcier

Gordon Gilbert Gass

Pat Gigliotti

Robert D. Hinkle

Delmar Hoeffner

William H. Jennings

John Lowell Johnston

Edwin C. Kohl, Sr.

Paul W. Clancy

Matthew J. McGrath

Anthony T. Nastasi

Charles A. Noell

Cecil D. Parkison

Jack H. Place

William A. Podolski

Gerhard Reethof

Harold Sabel

Jimmy J. Schiffman

Robert R. Wolf

#### TAPS

Dave Barela

Charles F. Carson

William R. Criss

Frank J. Crosser

Donald A. Davis

Charles D. Dillman

Gerald Enyart Durbin

Elton Farley

Eddie Gallegos

Phillip Gover

Eddie Lara

Buford J. Laxton

Raymond W. Meyer

Mitchell A. Pappan

Edward J. Pasowicz

Pete Phillips

Werner R. Saar

Angelo Joe Scopel

William J. Sheppard

Mario A. Teresi

Charles J. Webb

Henry A. Walton

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2145 NE 36TH STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73111