

45th Division News

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Fall, 1984

Thunderbirds gather for 1984 Reunion



Here is part of the crowd of Thunderbirds from throughout the United States who attended the 1984 reunion of the 45th Infantry Division Association at the Hilton Inn West in Oklahoma City the weekend prior to Labor Day.

The 1984 45th Infantry Division Reunion is now history after Thunderbirds from throughout the United States gathered at the Hilton Inn West for three days of fellowship, entertainment, touring and inspiration.

Beginning with early arrivals on Thursday preceding the weekend before Labor Day and continuing into Sunday as the Thunderbirds departed, the event was filled with activity.

All major units of the division had "command posts" where food, drink and fellowship were abundant. Although officially starting Friday, activity at the CP's and around the hotel was bustling most of the day Thursday.

Registration began Friday morning, with command posts open, and with buses pulling out regularly for the 45th Infantry Division Museum and other locations. A museum highlight was the dedication of its library to Col. Preston J. C. Murphy, who died during the past year.

A reception in the courtyard of the Hilton Inn West, followed by a dinner, dancing and bingo, highlighted the Friday night activity.

Saturday morning's activity began with the annual memorial service to departed Thunderbirds. Then came the business meeting, with a report on the National Guard from Adjutant General, Robert Morgan.

The Marriott Hotel, now under construction, was selected as the convention site for the 1986 reunion, being chosen over the Hilton Inn West. The Hilton was chosen last year to be the 1985 convention site.

The annual banquet Saturday night featured entertainment and the passing of the gavel from Paul Robinson to Pendleton Woods.

Banquet speaker was Abe Lemons, basketball coach at Oklahoma City University and a merchant marine veteran of World War II.

Pen Woods is Elected President of 45th Infantry Division Association

Pendleton Woods, who served last year as first vice president of the 45th Infantry Division Association, has been elected president of the Association for the coming year, succeeding Paul Robinson.

Bill Newberry is first vice president of the association, and Don Livesay is second vice president.

Elected secretary and treasurer, respectively, were Bob Wilson and Pat Scully.

Named to the board of directors for three year terms are Rex Wilson, Neal E. Dodds, Jimmy R. Jones, Robert N. Chase, Alton Atchison and George W. Turnbow.

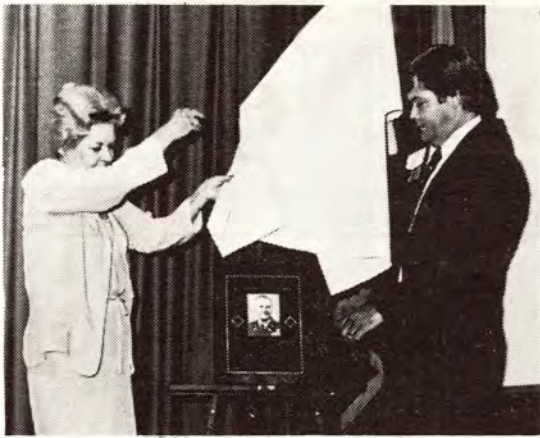
Association Moves Headquarters to 45th Division Museum Building

The 45th Infantry Division Association has moved its headquarters from the offices of the Oklahoma Military Department to the second floor of the 45th Infantry Division Museum at 2145 NE 36 St., Oklahoma City 73111.

Association Secretary Bob Wilson and volunteer Mona Strickland have

desks in the new offices, formerly used as living quarters for the museum curator. The association also has filing cabinets and office machines for improved operations.

Any mail addressed to the association should be mailed to the new address.



Mrs. Preston J. C. Murphy, and son, Derris Murphy, unveil the plaque picturing Colonel Murphy which is mounted at the entrance to the library at the 45th Infantry Division Museum

Division Museum Library Dedicated To Colonel Preston J.C. Murphy

The 45th Infantry Division Museum Library was dedicated at the 1984 Reunion to Colonel Preston J. C. Murphy, who commanded regiments both in World War II and Korea.

A plaque honoring Colonel Murphy was unveiled by Mrs. Murphy and children of the colonel at the special ceremony held in the museum auditorium.

Participating in the ceremony were John Embry, who served as master of ceremonies, Harold A. Meyer, a former 179th commander, who delivered the eulogy and Harlos Hatter, who was project chairman.

160th Field Artillery Holds Fifth Annual Field Maneuvers

The 160th Field Artillery Battalion held its Fifth Annual Field Maneuvers at Fountainhead Resort, Lake Eufaula, Checotah, Oklahoma, September 21-23, with 100 comrades and their spouses present. The reunion will be repeated next year as the Sixth Annual Field Maneuvers at the same place on September 27-29th, 1985.

Lt. Col. Ira V. LeMaster, deceased,

Chaplain Henry P. Roberson from Fort Sill also participated in the program.

Colonel Murphy was unquestionably one of the most capable and best loved officers ever produced by the division. He came to the division through the Colorado National Guard, serving in many capacities, including regimental commander in World War II. He remained in the regular Army following the war, and returned to the division for the Korean War at the request of the division commander, serving first as chief of staff and later as 279th commander.

who commanded the organization in Korea was named Honorary Field Commander.

Officers were elected, with Sylvester Fenneward, Box 19, Cherokee Village, Arkansas 72525 as Field Commander, and Joseph C. Cherry, 7445 E 29th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129, named Secretary-Treasurer.

Korean T-Bird Veteran Works for Mortar Company Recognition

Miguel Bach, of 154 Broome Street, Apt. 10A, New York, NY 10002, is working strongly in the commendable effort to bring about proper recognition to the Heavy Mortar Company of the 180th Infantry, which stayed on the line longer than any other company during the Korean War — from September 21, 1952 to June 27, 1953.

He is in the process of documenting all his information and will be putting together a recommendation for a unit award, with the support of the Association.

If you have any information concerning this company during the stated period, it should be forwarded to Bach.

45th Museum Names Top Priority Items

The board of directors of the 45th Infantry Division Museum has listed five top priority items in the development of the museum. These are:

1. The building of an attractive fence around the premises for protection of the building and the outside artifacts.
2. Construction of walks along the pathway for viewing outside exhibits.
3. Installation of outside security lights.
4. Obtaining of fighter planes in the styles used by the early Oklahoma Air National Guard.
5. Finishing and installing the outside metal plaques identifying exhibits.

Donrey Furnishes Outdoor Boards

We are grateful to Donrey Outdoor Advertising for furnishing outdoor display boards free of charge to the 45th Infantry Division Museum. Initially, signs prepared by the museum were on display on Interstate 35 and in downtown Oklahoma City.

Sign locations will be shifting from time to time. Making arrangements for the signs is Don Burris, vice president of Donrey and a former member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Former G-1 Hospitalized

Woodrow W. "Woody" Cook, a member of the Adjutant General's section in World War II and G-1 in Korea, has been severely ill in the Perry Point Veterans' Hospital in Maryland. He was injured with three brain hemorrhages following a fall at his home last spring.

Contributions Accepted

A number of contributions have been made to the 45th Infantry Division Museum in memory of Major General Hal Muldrow. Persons wishing to make memorial contributions may send them to Harlos Hatter, and mailed c/o the 45th Museum, 2145 NE 36 ST., Oklahoma City. The family will be notified.

Order CITIZEN SOLDIERS today from 45th Infantry Division Museum



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Enclosed is a check or money order for \$ _____ in payment for _____ copies of Citizen Soldiers (at \$24.95 each), plus a \$2.00 mailing cost for each address to which books are being mailed.

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Citizen Soldiers

By Kenny A. Franks

Before Vietnam, the famous Thunderbird Division boasted more combat days than any other American military unit, winning combat honors at Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, and southern Europe in World War II, and at Luke the Gook's Castle, T-Bone, Old Baldy, and Outpost Eerie in Korea.

The celebrated Forty-fifth Infantry Division was organized during the early 1920s, with components in Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. After World War II the Thunderbird Division became an all-Oklahoma unit.

For this book Kenny A. Franks has made extensive use of the wealth of documents, photographs, maps, and private collections housed in the Forty-fifth Infantry Division Museum, in Oklahoma City. He has interviewed many members of the Forty-fifth, both active and retired, and the book is enlivened by personal accounts of civil and military duty. The illustrations include many contemporary photographs never published before and several of Bill Mauldin's incomparable cartoon sketches of the Forty-fifth in action.

The Oklahoma Guard was first mustered into federal service for duty on the Mexican border in 1916. The troops were again called for service in World War I, when, merged with the Texas National Guard, the Oklahomans helped form the Thirty-sixth National Guard Division and served in Europe. Another group from Oklahoma and Texas formed the Ninetieth or Texas-Oklahoma Division and saw action in France.

No account of the Oklahoma Guard would be complete without the history of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. The author has traced its heritage from before World War I to the present. He also examines the role played by the Oklahoma National Guard in the Army's "total force" concept, the organization for military defense of the nation today. Franks has included peacetime action as well, for the guardsmen have served their neighbors on many occasions in times of natural disaster or civil disturbance.



"Hit th' dirt, boys!"

LC: 83-40326, ISBN: 0-8061-1862-8. 264 pages, 82 illustrations, 11 maps, appendices, notes, bibliography, index, 8½ x 11. July. \$24.95.

Citizen Soldiers is on sale at the 45th Infantry Division Museum at 2145 NE 36 Street in Oklahoma City. It can also be ordered by mail from the museum for \$24.95, plus \$2.00 mailing cost, or a total of \$26.95. If you order more than one copy at the same time, the Museum will pay the mailing cost for all except the \$2.00 charge for the first copy. See the opposite side of this page for order blank.

Field Artillery is Monograph Subject

The First Oklahoma Field Artillery and its Successors to 1945 is the latest of the monographs prepared for the 45th Infantry Division Museum.

Writing the monograph, published by the museum, was John Embry, who served as commander of the 160th Field Artillery in World War II, then remained on active duty following the war before retiring in 1960.

Col. Embry is an active board member and volunteer in the museum, and was in charge of establishing its Artillery Room.

45th Command Car Driven in Parade

The command car of the 45th Infantry Division Museum went to McAlester, Okla. May 5, where it was used to transport Secretary of the Army John Marsh, former Speaker of the House Carl Albert, and Governor George Nigh in the parade and festival held in McAlester that weekend.

President's Message

Why Not a Life Membership?

Have you considered life membership in the 45th Infantry Division Association?

Life members are unique and special people in our Association. They do not have to wonder from year to year whether or not they have paid their membership dues. They are paid, and will continue to be paid, even beyond death. This is because life memberships are invested and only the earnings from these memberships can be used in the operation of the chapter.

In effect, a life membership is more than just payment of dues for your lifetime. It is a perpetual membership, which will always help to support the work of our Association.

What is the cost? A mere \$75.00 — less than the annual membership in many organizations.

Some, such as your president, who took out a life membership more than 25 years ago, have beat the actuarial tables. However, whether or not you "use it up" should be an unimportant consideration when contemplating life membership.

Whether you live five or forty more years is not the important issue. In effect, your life membership is a donation to the Association. If you can afford it, make it. If not, nobody expects you to take out such a membership.

We are now making a life membership campaign and we urge you to consider such a membership for yourself.

Pendleton Woods
President

Memorial Service is Reunion Tradition

The traditional Memorial Service to departed Thunderbirds preceded the annual business meeting of the 45th Infantry Division Association on the final day of the reunion. Presenting the message for the service was Chaplain William C. Shirey, pictured at left. At right, BG (retired) Ross Routh brings forward the Thunderbird wreath honoring our departed.



Thunderbird Retires from School: Promotes Cemetery

Ralph Fink, a World War II member of the Co. D, 157th Infantry, and his wife, Clarabel, recently retired as houseparents at Milton Hershey School at Hershey, Pennsylvania. During their 31 year tenure, the Finks touched the lives of over 250 boys

during their formative years. In addition, Clarabel and Ralph have watched with keen interest the development of the new National Cemetery at nearby Fort Indiantown Gap, which eventually will provide 360,000 grave sites for veterans.

45th Division Museum Seeks New Volunteers

The 45th Infantry Division Museum is looking for 20 more museum volunteers. If you can give as much as four hours weekly to the museum, contact Harlos Hatter, museum volunteer chairman.

Scenes at the 1984 Reunion



Speaker for the banquet, Abe Lemmons, with Mrs. Lemmons.



J. O. Smith, Sam Cluck, and others talk about old times in the 45th.



Pen Woods, new Association president, with wife, Robin, who wears a large Thunderbird pendant on her necklace.



Treasurer Pat Scully and Mrs. Scully.



ABOVE — Color guard adds a touch of patriotism to the formal meeting of the Association.

BELOW — A dance group from the 45th Band plays for dancing and listening.

Arnold and Shirley Duff visit with Harold Dallam.



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