

45th Division News

April 1989

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

THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS



ROSS HOLLAND ROUTH

Brigadier General Ross H. Routh was born on January 4, 1907 in Lockhart, Texas. He graduated from Oak Cliff High School in Dallas, Texas in 1924. Ross then attended and graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in 1929 with a BA degree in Economics. He was employed as an accountant after graduation from college until March 1934, when he was appointed as Executive

Officer of the Oklahoma Military Department, a post he held until September 1940.

Routh was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in 1931; promoted to Captain in 1936; Major, November 1939; Lieutenant Colonel, Finance Corps, September 1940; Colonel, May 1950; and Brigadier General, April 1965, retiring in that grade in October of 1965. During his distinguished military career he served in the capacities of Regimental Communications Officer, Company Commander, Battalion Adjutant, Brigade Adjutant, Division Finance Officer, Corps Finance Officer, Army Finance Officer, Division Chief of Staff, U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer, and Assistant Adjutant General of Oklahoma.

When the 45th Infantry Division was ordered into Federal service in September 1940, Routh was Finance Officer of the Division and served in that position until April 1945 when he was reassigned as Finance Officer of XV Corps from May until July 1945. He was then assigned as Fiscal Officer of Fort Bliss, Texas from October 1945 until June 1946. During his tenure as Finance Officer of the 45th Division throughout World War II, he established the reputation of being one of the best, if not the best, finance officer in the U.S. Army. Throughout combat in Europe, he never missed paying the troops on time, every payday, regardless of the hazards or the circumstances.

Ross Routh was appointed U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer of Oklahoma in September 1946 and served in that capacity until August 1950 with additional duties as Division Chief of Staff from March 1949. When the 45th Division was recalled to active service in September 1950, Routh was also recalled as Chief of Staff of the division. In October 1950, he was reassigned as Management Officer of Fort Dix, New Jersey until January 1951 when he was assigned as Finance Officer, VI Corps until October 1951. He

was Finance Officer of the Eighth U.S. Army in Korea from December 1951 to July 1953.

Upon return to Oklahoma in August of 1953, he was reappointed as U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer, a position he held until September 1965 when he retired as Brigadier General with more than 25 years of active Federal service. After retirement, he served as Assistant Adjutant General of Oklahoma until July 1966. He was later employed as a Computer Programmer at the VA Center in Austin, Texas, retiring from that position as a GS-12 in February of 1973.

BG Routh was a graduate of the Army Chemical Warfare School, the Army Finance School, Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army Command Management School. His many military awards and decorations included the Legion of Merit with 2d award; Bronze Star Medal with 2d award; Army Commendation Medal with 2d award; Order of Military Merit Ulchi with Silver Star (Korea); Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation with 2d award; and the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Medal.

Ross Routh was affiliated with the Boy Scouts for more than 59 years as a Scout, member of the National Council and Local Council Executive Boards, Silver Beaver (1961) and Silver Antelope (1971). Member Sons of the American Revolution since 1926; member of Masons (Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, and Shrine); National Sojourners; Disabled American Veterans; and numerous other civic, fraternal, patriotic, and religious organizations.

In 1933, he married Fay Campbell in Dallas, Texas. Of this union, four sons were born: Rob Roy, Donald Kent, Alan Campbell, Jon Douglas. The Rouths have seven grandchildren. After retirement, the Rouths lived in El Paso, Texas.

Ross Routh had a very illustrious and distinguished military career. He was one of the best-known and liked officers in Oklahoma military circles for almost four decades. He was a friend to everyone, enlisted man and officer alike, and he was highly influential and instrumental in furthering the careers of many officers. His deeds during his tenure as both Finance Officer of the 45th Division and U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer of Oklahoma shall go down in the annals of history as the finest any man could ever accomplish. He was a true Thunderbird in every sense of the word, a great and honorable man.

Brigadier General Ross H. Routh died 22 July 1987 at the Veterans Hospital in Temple, Texas at the age of 80. He was buried with full military honors in the Military Cemetery at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

THE GENIUS THAT WAS ROSS ROUTH

by Louis Scott

A number of great men and outstanding leaders served in the 45th Division during its existence, both in peacetime and in war. The history of this superb combat division attests to this fact, but one of those in the division who stood out from the crowd was Ross Routh, a man of unusual abilities, versatility, and leadership qualities. He was a genius at organization and could quote Army Regulations verbatim, by chapter and verse, and was rarely wrong. He was a friend to all and a benefactor to many. He was responsible for furthering the careers of quite a few officers in the division.

Many stories can be told about the wizardry of this remarkable man and his many accomplishments that contributed to the excellence of the 45th Division and the Oklahoma National Guard, but two special events involving Ross Routh reveal the great administrative ability, versatility, and astuteness of this outstanding individual.

Ernest E. Brown, Assistant Division Finance Officer during WWII and a close associate and long-time friend of Ross Routh's, tells about how officers of the division received their uniform allowance earlier than anyone else.

"When the United States Congress passed the Uniform Allowance Act of 1942, and then later the law allowing longevity pay for service in the National Guard, Ross did not wait for Army Regulations to promulgate the law and set forth the administrative procedures necessary for payment. He called Senator Mike Monroney in Washington, D.C. to quote him the law which Ross took down in detail. He (Ross) then drafted the necessary certificates to comply

with the law and mimeographed several thousand forms and pay vouchers. He then waited for the Senator to call him back after the President had signed the bill into law. We immediately went to work paying each of the 1200 officers of the 45th Division the uniform allowance they were due. The rest was easy, as it was payable in multiples of \$50. So Ross ordered the bank in Watertown, N.Y. to secure the necessary funds in increments of 50 and 100 dollar bills. Ross became a very popular man at Pine Camp and Watertown, N.Y. He even paid the Post Finance Officer, along with our division officers, or he would have had to wait weeks or months for the implementing Army instructions."

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WELCOME TO ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LOUIS A. SCOTT, Lawton, Oklahoma has joined our volunteer staff as Associate Editor.

Scotty is a double-dipper Thunderbird. He served with 700 Ordnance in World War II and the 158 Field Artillery in Korea. He is retired from his civilian occupation as a member of the staff of the US Army Field Artillery Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

We are very pleased to have Scotty as a member of our volunteer staff and he has already assumed a great share of the burden associated with publishing the 45th Division News.

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The other story is about an event that was well known to many in the division at the time it occurred, but it was recorded by **Kenneth Williamson**, a Sergeant in the Division Finance Section, and his version, entitled "The Great Currency Chase," tells it all. The story as written by Williamson is shortened here to conserve space.

When the 45th Division landed for a short stay in Algeria, enroute to the invasion of Sicily, LTC Ross Routh drew about two million dollars from an Oran Bank to pay soldiers of the division. This money was placed in field safes and loaded aboard ship for transport to Sicily. After the invasion, the division finance section set up headquarters in a villa in Vittoria, previously occupied by local Fascists. Williamson continues the story, "After settling into their new 'home,' the next thought of the finance group was of their money: where might it be? They began to comb the beach in the landing area... Someone eventually spotted the corner of a field safe barely protruding above the sand... In time, every field safe was located, dislodged from the sand, and hauled back to Fas-

cist headquarters. A lock-picking contest ensued. It was necessary first to dislodge fine sand that had invaded the locks, then to work the somewhat corroded mechanism... The contents of the safes were thoroughly soaked with sea water... There remained the problem of what to do with all this wet money. It couldn't be disbursed that way, and, if stored wet, it would probably mildew.

Fortunately, the Facist villa had a large sundeck. The decision was made to take batches of money to the sundeck and dry them by solar heat. Thus, the money was dried, literally a bushel at a time. A batch would be spread onto the glazed tile floor of the sundeck and stirred with a garden rake every few minutes until dry. The only hazard to this scheme was that occasionally a puff of wind would come through, pick up a few of the drier bills and blow them away. This would send the personnel scurrying after the fugitive bills..."

Of about two million dollars that was dried outside by hot the Sicilian sun that day in July of 1943, only \$16.60 was never found, according to Williamson. Another tribute to the adaptability and versatility of Ross Routh.

TESTIMONIALS FROM FRIENDS OF ROSS ROUTH

(Ed. note: Most comments have been shortened or paraphrased to conserve space.)

ERNEST E. BROWN: I was first associated with then Captain Routh about 1935 on a military basis, then he commissioned me as his assistant finance officer. From that time on he was not only my commanding officer, he was my true friend. Our fond loyalty to one another could fill a book. He was always helping someone to better themselves... Ross was very proud of his uniform and was an immaculate dresser... He had the greatest administrative ability of any person I've ever known. He could see the solution to an entangled situation and have it flowing smoothly before it became a real serious problem... Ross Routh was instrumental in my receiving a commission in the Regular Army and assignment to the Office of Chief of Finance in Washington, D.C... He always contacted me when he made trips to Washington... I knew him for 52 years.

RUSSELL PETTYJOHN: Over the years he (Routh) provided valuable assistance to me, in both my technician and military careers, and I grew to respect and care for him very much. He did a tremendous job for the Oklahoma National Guard and if ever a person deserved to be called "outstanding," it was Ross H. Routh.

HAROLD C. DALLAM: My association with Gen Routh began in June 1947 (and) I worked with him in several different jobs during a period of approximately 20 years... I never met nor associated with a more dedicated military officer and a true Thunderbird. A leader that instilled in his subordinates PRIDE and DEDICATION in their assignments; MOTIVATION to give that 100 percent; a standard of EXCELLENCY in each job performed, including LOYALTY... He was one of the most intelligent officers I have known, his ability for retention of facts and figures was not only outstanding but amazing... He was very understanding, caring, a fair and compassionate individual... Whatever success I have accomplished... I owe to the inspiration, knowledge and leadership of General Ross Routh.

BG WM REX WILSON: Ross Routh was a person with superior intelligence and outstanding managerial skills. He was fiercely loyal to his superiors and subordinates during his military career. He was the driving force that resulted in my receiving a commission in the 45th Division prior to the Korean mobilization. Ross was responsible for influencing the military careers of more people than anyone in Oklahoma Military History. I knew him well and the rough exterior he presented sometimes overshadowed his attributes of consideration and caring for others.

VIC HELLMAN: I had the pleasure of serving with Ross Routh... as an enlisted man in the 45th Inf Div Finance Section... he was always concerned for the finance personnel and always saw to it that we were cared for in the best possible way... I thank him for accepting me in the finance section; for getting me a direct commission while overseas; for talking me into going to work for the USFPO after the war; for getting my appointment as State Comptroller; and, for all the personal guidance he gave me during this time... He was a teacher and a friend.

FORREST MCINTIRE: The great responsibility of disbursing large sums of monies did not worry him (Routh) — his mission was to get the troops paid on time, which he accomplished — very few matters worried him... I knew Ross quite well... Ross was not a "Mr. Goody Two Shoes" — he could raise his voice and be as rough as they come, but underneath he was kind and gentle... Ross was a stouthearted great patriot.

JOHN C. PATTERSON:... regarding the effects of Ross Routh's leadership on my military career, I probably owe Ross more than anyone else. I have frequently made the statement that anything I may amount to is Ross' fault... He counseled me (sometimes at the top of his voice), he figuratively kicked me in the tail when I needed it (frequently), he got me jobs and gave me jobs to try to scabble out a living for my family in those dark days of the depression. I was one of the first of the several generations of Ross' "boys" that he made men. I can say unequivocally that if it were not for Ross Routh and his influence, I would never have had a military career.

MG FRED DAUGHERTY:... I was one of many young men that Ross Routh took under his wing and gave strong support and encouragement, not only

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Colonel Ross H. Routh, Finance Officer of Eighth U.S. Army, Korea presented the Order of Military Merit Ulchi with Silver Star by Syngman Rhee, President of the Republic of Korea on 26 January 1953. Colonel Routh was awarded the medal for his outstanding professional ability in the performance of his highly complex duties and for his assistance to the finance officials of South Korea to maintain a stable balance of their currency.

GENERAL BY THE NUMBERS

"Ross Routh, Smartest guy I ever met"

Said his college room mate.

They were going to make him economics professor

But depression fell.

Became a soldier instead.

Married his college sweetheart.

Paid the Thunderbirds in Italy.

The money got wet in the surf,

Laid it out on the beach to dry.

Did all the Generals' taxes.

Became a General himself.

A military, number man.

He could never please his father
as his brother did,

But was proud of all his sons.

Haunted libraries and county court houses.

Published books and books,

Of births, deaths, marriages;

Ancestors before the revolution.

Now at last has access to St. Peter's books.

can trace the family line

to the Battle of Hastings.

Find out the precise amount

William the conqueror

Paid Richard de Surdeval.

Donald K Routh (7/23/87)

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for advancement in the military but to become responsible young men in our society. I would not have become an officer in the National Guard had it not been for Ross Routh. He introduced me to the... 10 series... Not only did he introduce me to this opportunity, but he rode herd on me to see that I did not lag and falter in pursuing the required work... Our personal friendship became fast and lasting and one that I prize most highly. My personal debt to Ross Routh was one that I could never repay except partially with great affection, nor did he expect any sort of payment. I know his satisfaction came from guiding and helping a young man find his way in life.

VERCILL L. PATTERSON:... His (Routh's) knowledge and interpretation of Army regulations and his organizational ability were superb. Operation of the Finance Section under his direction was superior. I can never recall our missing a pay day on schedule even in combat. He was a leader and an inspiration to anyone who served with him.

A. H. SPEARS: In a division which seemed to have more than its share of outstanding officers, Ross Routh ranked with the best of them. He inspired intense loyalty in everyone who served under him. He certainly had a tremendous influence on me and I credit the training I received from him for any success I may have achieved in my life.

BRUCE REY: Ross had the coveted ability to command respect and loyalty from those who worked with him. He expected the best and was always willing to take time to help, if needed, to accomplish the best. Because of Ross' concern and interest... many enlisted men in his command were able to terminate their military service as senior officers... His influence touched the lives of so many in a very positive way.

W.B. "BILL" RAYBURN:... To me, he (Ross Routh) was a man who could justifiably be called *unique*... I think the military complex... will always suffer a void when someone like Ross is gone.

DONALD E. OLDHAM: Ross H. Routh enlisted me in the Oklahoma National Guard in August of 1940. I served directly under him in the 45th Division Finance Office for 5 years during World War II and indirectly under him in the NG between WWII and the Korean War. In Korea, I again served under him indirectly as he was the Finance Officer of the Eighth Army under which the 45th served. ... I feel that the training and inspiration I received from General Routh gave me the equivalent of a college education. I consider it a privilege to have been fortunate enough to have served under him and to have him and his family as personal friends.

JAMES N. ADLER: He (Routh) was always open to new ideas, encouraged initiative in others and gave full support in their worthwhile projects and changes in regulations, methods, and procedures... General Routh was admired for his superb knowledge, leadership and for his assistance to others to learn, grow, advance, and achieve.

CHARLES F. ABLE:... There were often line-of-duty reasons to visit with Ross (he made the relationship of rank easy in an intangible way that did not invite over-familiarity). And though I was awed with his knowledge, he was comfortable to know (never intimidating) and we became friends.

DAVID ROSE: Ross Routh was an extremely dedicated man to the Army. His primary job was to pay the troops on time, and he never missed a payday. When we landed in Africa, he made it his first priority to get into Oran, secure money and pay on the first. At Anzio, troops were paid on the first, even though most of them requested that their money be sent home. When the division was sent from Italy to France, every ship had to be boarded, money exchanged from Lira to Francs, so as not to be a concern to the men.

General Routh was a compulsive reader. This was true of magazines as well as technical detail. He could read almost as fast as he could turn pages. He had almost 100% retention. His judgement was excellent, and he would answer any technical question.

He was well versed in business and military procedure. I learned more about business and the handling of men in the four years with General Routh, than in the five years prior and the forty years after serving with him. He was loyal to his men and used every means at his disposal to better their lives in every way. He was *in charge* both during our active service until the last time I saw him, which was his 80th birthday. He was still in charge, and we were still his men.

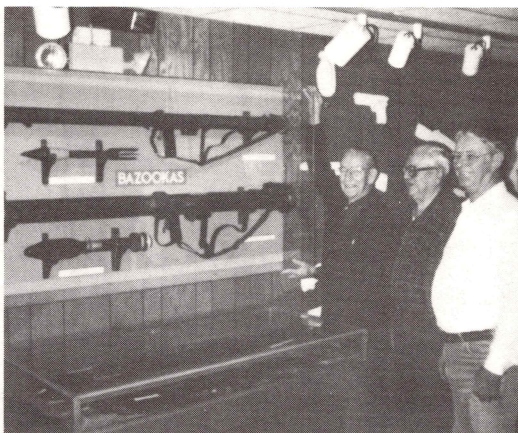
ADMIRAL KIRKPATRICK DONATES TO MUSEUM

Admiral John E. Kirkpatrick of Oklahoma City, prominent oilman, banker, Naval veteran and philanthropist, has remembered the 45th Infantry Division Museum this past Christmas with a most generous donation of \$500.00 from the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

Admiral Kirkpatrick is the founder of Kirkpatrick Center, our neighbor to the north. This most attractive center is a tremendous contribution to the culture of our community.

Some of us know that before he entered the United States Naval Academy, he was a member of the 45th Infantry Division as Private John E. Kirkpatrick, Battery F, 189th Field Artillery Regiment, with home station in Oklahoma City.

We salute this outstanding citizen.



Rocket Launcher exhibit opened 12/28/88. (L-R) Those responsible: Herbert C. O'Neil, James A. Maker and Pat O'Neil.

NEW MUSEUM DISPLAY

On December 28, 1988, the 45th Division Museum installed a new display—the Rocket Launcher case in the Infantry Room.

In it is a 2.36" Rocket Launcher (WWII use) and the shell it fires. Also, there is a Korean era 3.5" Rocket Launcher and its shell.

MG Daugherty stated that this is the last "family" exhibit since the Museum has previously displayed the mortars, recoilless rifles, hand and shoulder weapons, and machineguns.

The exhibit was put together by volunteers (L to R) LTC Herbert C. O'Neil, LTC James A. Maker, and Pat O'Neil with the help of Mike Gonzales, the Museum Curator. These men are to be commended for their outstanding work in getting this display, which took many months to complete, ready for public viewing.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE PLANNED AT 45TH DIVISION MUSEUM

Memorial Day will be observed at 10 A.M. Monday, May 29, 1989 with a ceremony to be held outside the 45th Infantry Division Museum at 2145 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Mr. Edwin Corr will deliver the main address, honoring our departed comrades. Mr. Corr is currently serving as Ambassador-in-Residence to the State of Oklahoma. He recently served as the U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador from 1985 to 1988.

Music will be furnished by the 145th Army Band. A wreath in memory of those who gave their lives for their country will be presented by two Congressional Medal of Honor winners, LTC Ernest Childers and Lt. Jack Montgomery, who earned their medals during World War II in Europe. Also, there will be a fly-over of Helicopters by Co. B 1/245 Avn. Bn., Airborne, stationed in Lexington, Oklahoma.

A "massing of the colors" ceremony, sponsored by the Oklahoma City chapter of the Military Order of World Wars will be conducted as a part of the Memorial Day observance.

Tours of the 45th Infantry Division Museum, along with serving of refreshments, will follow the ceremony.

MUSEUM NEEDS

MUSEUM CHASING SHOES AND SKIRTS. The 45th Infantry Division is in desperate need of a few uniform items! Namely pre-1960's brown low quarters, those brown oxfords worn with the class A uniform, for both men and women. We also need a female uniform (Class A) from the period of the Korean War.

If anyone can help, or knows someone who can help us acquire these items, please get in touch with the Curator: Michael E. Gonzales, 2145 N.E. 36th, Oklahoma City, OK 73111, or phone (405) 424-5313.

MUSEUM RENOVATED

The 45th Infantry Division Museum is pleased to announce the completion of a major renovation project to its main gallery. Called the Hall of Flags, the exhibit highlights the military history of the State from the first Spanish explorers to the present.

The gallery boasts ten new display cases, six new exhibits, and many artifacts on display for the first time. Chief among these is one of only three survivors of the Confederate Whitworth sniper rifle. Ours is one of the best documented weapons of the Civil War, and the only Whitworth to never surrender.

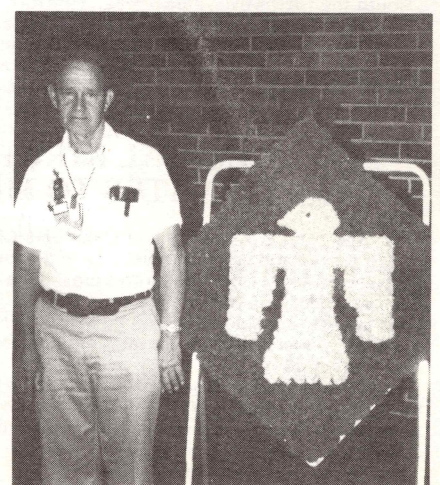
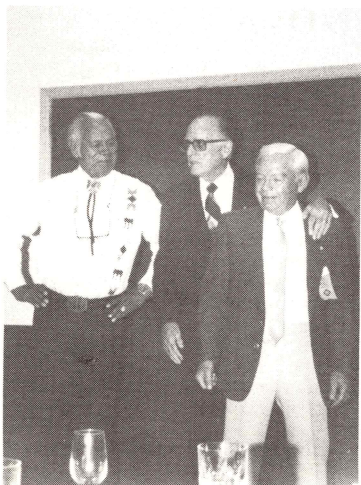
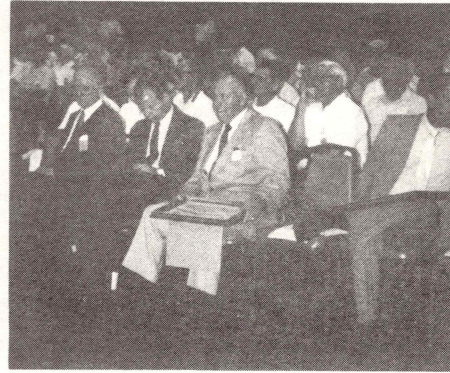
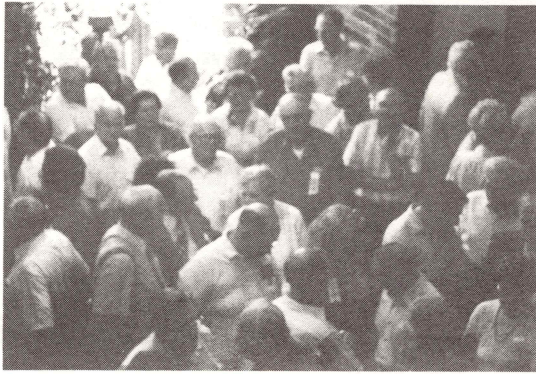
New exhibits include: Oklahoma's Trails and Forts, Indian Police and Scouts, Civil War in the Indian Territory, The Indian Wars, The Spanish American War, The Mexican Border, a greatly expanded WWI exhibit and a display of WWII artifacts including many items recovered from Hitler's Munich apartment and his residence near Berchtesgaden.

There are seven other galleries in the Museum exhibiting the combat art of Bill Mauldin, the Reeves US Military Fire Arms Collection, vehicles, aircraft, weapons and a variety of uniforms and accouterments. The grounds around the Museum display a permanent collection of sixty vehicles, aircraft, artillery and armored vehicles.

The Museum is free of charge, open nine to five Tuesday through Friday, ten to five on Saturday and one to five on Sunday, closed Monday.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF 43RD REUNION

SUBMITTED BY HENRY W. BEHRENS JR.



★ ★ ★ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ★ ★ ★

Would appreciate hearing from any member of the Anti-Tank Co., 180th Infantry, WWII. I'm sorry I found out at this late date there was a 45th Division Association or I would of been a member all these years. **THOMAS E. STAUF-FACHER**, 1911 14th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566.

I served with the 700th Ord Bn in Korea from August '52 to September '53. After separation in October '53, I spent 30 years with Burroughs Corp in Field Engineering and Test Engineering; 15 years in New York City and 15 in South Florida. Left Burroughs in '83 and am now a Principal Engineer with ARINC Research Corp in Washington, D.C. supporting the FAA's update of the Air Traffic Control System. I have been to the Division Museum and enjoyed it very much. On my next trip to OKC I will bring some old pictures and equipment to donate. Enjoy the news of the division very much. **ANGELO A. LAVIANO**, 2702 Wrexham Ct., Herdon, VA 22071.

I met with Charlie Harper and Harry Kelch on New Year's Eve, 1988. It was the first time I had seen Kelch since separation from the service in 1945 and the first time I had seen Charlie for about 20 years. We had a good time chatting about the events from Anzio all the way to Munich. Charlie and Harry were in I Co. and I was assigned to K Co., 180th Infantry. **WESLEY L. ANDERSON**, 2504 Airway Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

I was shipped out from Africa to Sicily but missed the 45th's invasion of Sicily, although I was in the Anzio Invasion. I was a radio operator for Co. A 120th Engineers. I speak and read German so I was an interpreter for Col. Franz and also for S2 Capt. Billings. I would like to renew acquaintances with old buddies. I am planning to go to the reunion this year. **WALTER E. HARTGE**, 12117 216th Ave., Bristol, WI 53104.

I joined Co. F 180th Infantry in 1949 at Hugo, Oklahoma. I served as a Sergeant in the Weapons Platoon of Co. F during the Korean War. I was discharged June 30, 1952 and joined the Oklahoma City Police Department and retired at the rank of Major in charge of the Training Division after 25 years of service on June 12, 1978. **JIM WATSON**, Rt 14 Box 214A, Moore, OK 73165.

I just got out of the hospital after 7 weeks. I am on the road to recovery now and hope to get back to normal pretty soon. My time spent with the 45th Division (179 Inf Band and 45 Div Band) was a very important time for me and belonging to the Association is a tie back to that time. **BERNARD RABINOWITZ**, 7016 Wallis Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215.

My congratulations to Louis A. Scott for his "Remember When" in the January '89 edition of the 45th Div. News. I, having joined the division in April 1939 can recall most vividly the items he enumerated except the move to Ft. Devens. I left the division in March of 1942 for pilot training. **G.E. DURBIN**, 3108 N. Viewpoint Dr., Midwest City, OK 73110.

I am a WWII and Korean vet from the 45th and have many memories good and bad of almost 8 years with the Thunderbirds. K Co. 179th in WWII and E Co. 279th whom I was with as a platoon leader when I was hit on patrol. In your "Remember When" column there was nothing but good and painful memories. Somewhere out there is Raymond (Tuffy) Myers of K Co. Wish I could find him. **ROBERT B. WATSON**, 126 Mockingbird Lane, Vinita, OK 74301.

I have fond memories of the fine men I served with in Battery A 171 st FA having joined the 45th Division as a 2nd Lt. at Chitose, Hokkaido, Japan in October 1951. I would enjoy hearing from others from the old Battery B 171 st FA or Co. A 180th Inf with whom I served as Forward Observer for 6 months. **ROBERT A. FRANKLIN**, HCR 69 Box 208, Sunrise Beach, MO 65079.

I served with the Medical Detachment, 120th Engineers during the Korean War. I am trying to help get a reunion of this group organized for next year. In April, 1988 I enjoyed touring the wonderful 45th Division Museum and my wife and I were impressed with the magnitude and depth of the displays. Let future generations forget I feel it is very important that museums of this type are maintained. **PAUL R. MARTIN**, 4965 Hauser Dr., Pfafftown, NC 27040.

Mr. Gage had a severe stroke in September 1987. He is without speech and is paralyzed on his right side; therefore, I am writing this note for my husband. We are hoping for lots of improvement. He is very bright, so that is a big plus. **MRS. JOHN GAGE, (HELEN)**, 249 So. Pearl St., Canandaigua, NY 14424.

I joined the 157th Infantry, 45th Div in Jan 1944 at Anzio beachhead. I spent 5 months on the beachhead and was one responsible for liberating Rome. We then went to the invasion of Southern France at which time we went 87 consecutive days without any rest. After that we finally got to the border of Germany at which time our whole battalion was captured. I sustained 2 more wounds within 2 hours after being captured and was sent to a hospital in Neustadt, Germany. I spent 54 days in their hospital and was operated on by their docs. I am doing fine now and hope all my buddies in the 45th are also. **JOHN R. SAULS**, 5400 Mountview, Austin, TX 78756.

I was a combat medic in Co. L 180th Infantry in Korea from March to June 1953. From June 1953 to April 1954, I was with the 180th Tank Co. as a medic. If anyone in either outfit reads this and remembers me, it would be great to hear from you. **ROBERT A. BEAN**, RR 1, Box 310, Mt. Vernon, ME 04352.

Please publish in the "45th News" that I have an extra WWII history book for sale. This is an original copy and in fine shape. Any interested member can contact me for details. **JACK CORBETT**, 516 E. Oak St., Willows, CA 95988.

It's with great pleasure to enclose my payment for life membership in the 45th Infantry Division Association. I look forward to receiving your newsletter and I look forward to one day attending an annual meeting. I have fond memories of my tour of duty with the Thunderbirds in Korea during 1952-53. (120th Medical Clearing Co.). If a Thunderbird patch is available I would appreciate receiving one so I may show to grand sons.

JOSEPH H. POTTER, 13 Military Avenue, Westerley, RI 02891.

I read the January issue of the "News" about the bridge that was dedicated in memory of "Cactus" Jack Garner.

He was my platoon sergeant. When we broke out of the Anzio beachhead, my squad was trapped in a long ditch of brambles. We were under heavy mortar fire. A number of men were hit, and when the platoon runner came crawling through the ditch asking for volunteers to take out the wounded, I asked him where's Jack? He said, "No more Jack Garner". I couldn't believe my ears and crawled ahead to see what was what.

He spoke the truth, and even today I can still see everything so plainly. I said goodbye to him and I have never forgotten him.

The notice in the "News" brought back harsh memories, but also a feeling of pleasure that this is being done.

Congratulations to Colgate, Oklahoma.

DAVID PRESSMAN, 333 Central Park West Apt. 51, New York, NY 10025.

Just a note of thanks for the wonderful story about General Key. I was just a kid in the summer of 1940 when I was visiting relatives in Oklahoma City, and joined the 45th with my uncle to make the summer maneuvers in Louisiana. We all remember what happened on 16 September 1940, and I was shortly reassigned to Company F, 120th Quartermaster which provided transportation for the division staff.

One Saturday when I was on telephone duty I was told to bring the General's car up to headquarters. What an event! It was the first time this 18 year old boy had driven a car with the shift on the steering column, and that new Packard was absolutely silent. I was terrified, but Captain Harrison told me that I should open the door, etc., and it worked out pretty well. The next year at Camp Barkeley I was assigned as General Key's driver. I enjoyed my association with him until the fall of 1942 when he left the Division at Fort Devens, MA.

He was truly a fine man, and I was delighted to read the article about him. My thanks again for all the fine work you all do to help us remember those days in our lives.

HUGH M RAUPE, 106 North Lamber St., Granbury, TX 76048.

I am submitting an application for membership in the 45th Infantry Division Association.

A few weeks ago I was attending a District American Legion Meeting and saw a Thunderbird Pin on the Legion cap of one of my friends. I inquired how he got the pin, etc., and he furnished me your address and some information about the 45th Association.

In 1950 Uncle Sam volunteered me into the military. I was inducted at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and shipped to Camp Polk, Louisiana. I was assigned to Charlie Company of the 279th Infantry. I was later transferred to Service Company as a mechanic, based on civilian experience. Upon arrival in Hokkaido, Japan, I assisted the welder. Again, I had experience in welding in civilian life. Before too long, my main job was welding, and after we went to Korea, the other welder and I were both transferred to the 120th Combat Engineer Battalion. I stayed there until rotation time. I met some great guys and received invaluable experience.

I'm sure I'll enjoy reading the 45th Division News.

ROBERT J. TEBBE, 1623 Centerville Avenue, Belleville, IL 62220.

I am a former member of Service Battery 160 FA Bn during World War II. I would like to know the current mailing address for the following individuals:

John R. Turner, Holdenville, OK; Mrs. Eugene Roberts, Holdenville, OK; Joseph Hanson, Troutdale, Oregon; Dennis J. Schmedding, Winnebago, Nebraska.

I am enclosing a copy of a service battery roster from December 1942 for your records.

If you have a later roster of WWII service btry I would appreciate a copy.

JOSEPH F. WINTER, 1025 Winslow Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55118.

I served in the 160th Field Artillery Battalion in Korea as Liaison Officer and Assistant S-3.

Retired in 1983 after 28 years as a District Judge in Lincoln and Pottawatomie Counties in Oklahoma. I am on Active Retirement subject to assignment by the Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Currently assigned to supervise Oklahoma's first Multi-County Grand Jury which convened in Oklahoma City 1 February 1989 to investigate organized crime and drug traffic in Oklahoma.

My wife Mary is a retired teacher (Chandler, OK) and my two sons Donald E. Powers Jr. and James E. Powers both served in the 160th FA.

DONALD E. POWERS, PO Box 545, Chandler, OK 74834.

I would like very much to hear from anyone who served with me in Company K, 3rd Battalion, 180th Infantry during the Korean War. I attended a reunion in Oklahoma City, OK a few years ago, but I did not see any of my old buddies.

EUGENE F. LUCIA, Box 254, Ludlow, PA 16333.

This is my second query concerning the current status or whereabouts of Captain Satterfield who was my Company Commander when I was with Company E, 180th Infantry in October 1944. I am sure he wouldn't remember me, I was nothing but a scared piece of cannon fodder replacement, but he was very kind to me - under the circumstances. I have often thought of him over the years.

I enjoy your newsletter and I appreciate my windshield decal, but I wish you could obtain one that would go on the inside so it wouldn't get scratched off.

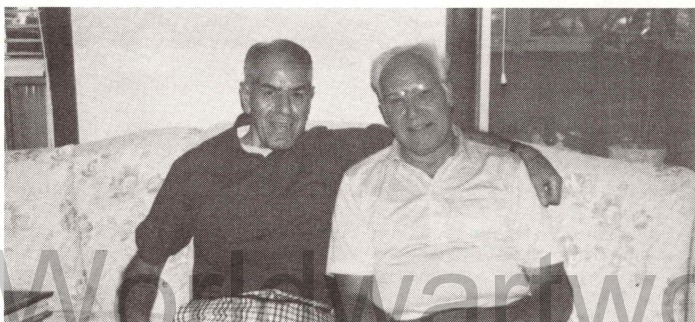
JAMES E HILDEBRAND, 14011 Ventura Blvd, Suite 211, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423.

On 7 March 1945 in Saverne, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France, an officer of the 45th Division was married. His name is Paul M. Thompson. The best man was Harry Snyder. The ceremony was performed by the 45th Division Artillery Chaplain, Werner Saar. The wedding took place in the Protestant church. At the time, the Division was "in Rest" after a cold tough winter with plenty of snow. Also we had crossed into Germany, but pulled back after a heavy counter-attack similar to "the battle of the bulge". On the night before the wedding, we were shelled by a giant railway gun nicknamed "Alsace Alice", the same type used in Italy against Anzio. We did have a nice honeymoon of three days and then returned just as the division was going back into the line. From then on it was all fast movement along the Autobahn to the Rhine River.

My wife and I met in the town of Pfaffenhoffen, a small town on the Moder River. She was American, born in Atlantic City, N.J. Her mother returned to Alsace when her husband died. Louise was 10 years old. She lived in Pfaffenhoffen through the entire occupation so many interesting experiences to tell.

As an American Legion member, I wear the 45th Division pin on my Legion cap as does another member in our District, a Korean vet with the Thunderbirds.

PAUL M. THOMPSON, 2236 Hanlon Rd, Libertyville, IL 60048.



THUNDERBIRDS REUNITE AFTER 43 YEARS

The above photograph of Bill Knaus (Left), of Jersey City, NY and W. Ashton Haworth (Right), of Beverly Hills, FL. is as they appear today.

Bill and I were buddies in H&S Company, 120 Engr Combat Bn in 1942, 43, and 44 right up until the time of our capture in Southern France.

It was September 10, 1944 and Bill, I and a Sgt whose name I cannot for the life of me remember, were on a forward engineer recon mission near Baume Les Dames, France when we overran the very fluid front lines and came upon a German OP and anti-tank gun replacement roadblock. After a brief gunfight, during which the Sgt was gravely wounded, and being badly outnumbered, we surrendered. The Sgt was taken to the nearest German medical facilities and Bill and I were transported by truck and train to Stalag XIIA in Limburg. It was there on October 1, 1944 that I last saw Bill for he was sent to a Stalag near Moosburg and I wound up in Stalag IIIC near Altdrewitz almost on the Polish border. We lost track of each other until he saw my name in an issue of the 45th News last year and contacted me. Needless to say, we had a very enjoyable reunion at his house last September and we hope to make the 45th Reunion this year in Okla. City with some other members of the old 120th Engrs.

Bill and I are interested in learning the name and whereabouts of the Sgt who was with us that day in 1944. Sarge, if you are out there, please contact me.

W. ASHTON HAWORTH, 215 S. Tyler, Beverly Hills, FL 32665.

LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

Seeking former members of Hq Btry, 45 Div Arty (Korean era) for possible reunion. Contact Buford Tom Griggs, Rt 14 Box 251, Lake Charles, LA 70605.

Anyone from Co. C 157th Infantry who paraded in New York City in 1942 please write to George Stithen, 243 Broad St Apt 305, Claremont, NH 03743.

Members of F Co. 5th Cav, 1st Cav Div. leftover to F Co. 180th Infantry in December 1951, Korea. Contact W.C. Walitzer, 6746 Barnwood Dr., Hazelwood, MO. 63042.

Donovan J. Bailey, Romie McGraw, Charles Stokes and Donald Allen of 1st Bn Medics, 180th Infantry. Contact Benson E. Gabbert, Box 266, Macedon, NY 14502.

REUNION NOTICES

645 TD Bn, 21-23 April 1989, Tulsa, OK. Contact T.J. Hunker, PO Box 127, Wheatland, OK (405) 745-2433.

180th Infantry Association, 5-7 May 1989 at McAlester, OK. Contact Raul Trevino, 7791 Woodchase Dr, Apt 1215, San Antonio, TX 78240. (515) 681-9134.

700th Ordnance LM Co. (WWII). Biannual reunion will be held June 2-4, 1989 in Springfield, Ohio. Contact Frank Vawter, 4534 Fairfield Pike, Springfield, OH 45502. (513) 323-1273.

ANZIO BEACHHEAD VETERANS of WWII. May 2-5, 1989 at Mt Airy Lodge, Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania. Anyone who served on the Anzio Beachhead—on land, sea and air—from January 22 to May 25, 1944 is invited to attend. Contact Allan W. Rossel, Public Affairs Officer, 52 Valley Road, Port Washington, NY 11050. (516) 883-7121.

Company A 120th Medical Regiment, 21-23 July 1989 at Cushing, OK. Contact Mrs. Fred Cannon, 702 E. Main, Cushing, OK 74023. (918) 225-1034.

45th Cav Recon Troop, 9-12 November 1989 in Orlando, FL. Contact Al Desrosiers, 8602 Veriden Dr., Orlando, FL 32810. Phone number unknown.

Co G 180th Infantry reunion McAlester, OK, May 5-6, 1989. For details contact J.M. Phipps. PO Box 347, Clarcona, FL 32710. (407) 295-6759.

Reunion of the Anti-Tank Company, 180th Regt, 45th Div at Columbus, Ohio, September 8th, 9th and 10th. For details contact Paul Bailey, 8523 Scipio Rd, Nunda, NY 14517, Phone (716) 468-2695.

**45th Infantry Division Reunion 24-26 Aug. 1989
Hilton Inn West - Oklahoma City ★ Reunion packets will
be distributed with 45th Division News July 1989.**

REUNION REPORTS

Anti-Tank Co., 180th Infantry held its second annual reunion on 9-10 September 1988 in Cambridge, Ohio. Those in attendance were: Frank McCown, Paul Bailey, Olin Bracken, John Bitsche, Robert Grozdanich, Joe Pate, Mike Plesko, Robert Ryan, and Louis Wozniak.

During 1988, final taps were sounded for the following members: Woodrow Folks, Henry Jensen, Harry Johnson, Joe Sidor, and Elmer White.

The group intends to hold their next reunion on 8-9 September 1989 in Columbus, Ohio. For information, contact Paul A. Bailey, 8523 Scipio Rd, Nunda, NY 14517. (716) 468-2695.

The 45th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (WWII) held its 8th reunion on 5-9 October 1988 at the Quality Inn International, Orlando, Florida. The reunion was hosted by Al and Sam Desrosiers.

Eighty-five members attended, including 42 troops, 11 new faces, their wives and friends.

The next reunion will be held in Orlando on 9-12 November 1989. Contact Al Desrosiers, 8602 Veridan Dr., Orlando, FL 32810.

Nine northwest former members of Hq Co I Bn 180 Inf Regt of the Korean Conflict, met at an annual reunion during September of 1988. Our meeting was held in beautiful Lincoln City on the Oregon Coast. A grand time was had by all and we are now planning and looking forward to our next.

We are much interested in renewing contact with all former members of our unit, nation wide. It is our hope to greatly increase attendance in upcoming reunions. Hopefully, even those members who cannot attend will contribute news as to where they are and what they are doing.

All former members of this unit are urged to write or call Vern Carpenter, 1301 5th St, La Grande, Oregon 97850. Phone (503) 963-3791.

*** THUNDERBIRD DEATHS ***

JAMES C. STYRON, Hobart, OK. Died Monday 2 January 1989 at the age of 90.

A 1918 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, Styron left the army in 1920 to enter the cotton business in Hobart, Oklahoma.

He was appointed a First Lieutenant in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1922 and had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel when the 45th Division was called to active service in 1940.

He was the Division Chief of Staff when he received the Silver Star for his service in combat in Sicily and Italy.

During the Anzio campaign, he was hospitalized with an ulcer attack and subsequently reassigned to the Pentagon as a member of a General Staff Board planning the post-war organization of the National Guard.

He was promoted to Brigadier General in 1946 as post-war Commander of the 45th Infantry Division, Oklahoma National Guard.

Stryon was promoted to Major General in 1950 and was Commanding General of the division when called to federal service for the Korean War. He commanded the division during its first months of combat in late 1951 and 1952.

He returned to Hobart, OK in May 1952 at the conclusion of his military service.

His decorations include the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit.

General Styron was active in various civic and professional organizations.

DONALD DEAN McALLISTER, Ponca City, OK. Died Thursday, 3 November 1988. He was 74.

Donald's name was the first drawn in Noble County, OK for the draft in World War II. He was inducted 29 January 1941 and served four years and eight months. The majority of his service was with the 45th Infantry Division. He served in combat in Sicily, Italy, France and Germany.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, a son and daughter and five grandchildren.

WILLIAM M. TOMLINSON, SR., Jacksonville, FL. Died Tuesday, 15 November 1988 at his home, following a lengthy bout with cancer.

Bill was a Korean Veteran, and he and his wife Marilyn were participants in the Korea Revisit Program in 1982.

Marilyn said his dream was to come to Oklahoma to visit the 45th Division Museum and to take part in dedication ceremonies for the International Korean War Memorial which is to be dedicated in September 1990. Unfortunately, Bill will not make the trip, however she intends, the Good Lord willing, to come to Oklahoma to visit the museum, and then to go to California for the dedication.

She said the 45th Division Association meant a great deal to Bill, and means a great deal to her, also.

ROY CARNES SMITH, San Antonio, TX. Died in November 1988 at age 73. He served as a 1st Lieutenant, Platoon Leader, with Company A, 120th Engineer Combat Battalion in Sicily, Italy, France and Germany and earned a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

Roy was business man, rancher and sportsman, and was a member of many civic organizations in San Antonio.

CHARLES F. ROBERTS, Bradford, PA died 24 August 1988. He was born in 1914 and volunteered for service in September 1941. After basic training at Camp Wolters, TX, he joined the 45th Division at Camp Barkeley, TX in December 1941.

Charles was a platoon leader in Company G, 180th Infantry and was awarded the Silver Star and three Purple Hearts.

He returned to Bradford, PA after the war and worked for the PA Department of Highways until health forced him to retire. He is survived by his wife of 40 years (Rae) and one daughter.

PETER MUELLER, New Hope, MN. Died 17 December 1988. He had cancer of the lungs and was ill for six months prior to his death.

Peter's wife, Beverle said he was very proud to have been "Thunderbird" as a member of Hq Co, 157th Infantry.

He received a belated award of the "Bronze Star" on his birthday on October 1988 based on prior award of the Combat Infantry Badge in World War II.

Peter and Beverle were married for 45 years.

JOHN A. LANGER, Heron Lake, Minnesota. John was a member of the 45th Division Band during Korea. He died 1 February 1988 due to diabetes. Upon return from military service in 1952, John entered the insurance business in Heron Lake, MN. He was a member of various local volunteer bands.

MILTON G. KNOWLTON, Concord, NH. Died September 16, 1988. He worked in the New Hampshire Highway Department print shop for 30 years and retired in 1978.

Milton was a World War II veteran of the 145th Infantry Division and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during the Anzio campaign.

VINCENT A. KIMBERLIN, Healdton, OK. Died 14 February 1989.

He commanded Tank Company, 179th Infantry after World War II and in the Korean War until wounded in action on 6 May 1952.

MG Fred Daugherty, his Regimental Commander in Korea, stated that Vincent was an outstand-

ing soldier and commander. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

He is survived by his wife, Wanda and two children.

ROY OMEGA ELLET, Richmond, VA. Died Saturday, 21 February 1987. He was a member of Company A, 157th Infantry during World War II.

Roy was awarded the Silver Star, Combat Infantry Badge, and the Purple Heart.

He is survived by his wife Lorena and three sons.

Roy's friend William T. Goyne said he lost a wonderful friend and a veteran who served his country with love and honor.

LAURENCE EDWARD CLOSE, Ponca City, OK. Died 18 December 1988.

Laurence was a member of the 158th FA Battalion in World War II. He served in various assignments in the battalion and was assigned as Battalion Sergeant Major at the end of the War.

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

JAMES L. BROCK, Show Low, AZ deceased 26 April 1986. He joined the 45th Infantry Division in 1939 and served as a member of the Quartermaster Company during World War II. Jim was First Sergeant when he was discharged from the Army in September 1945. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, one son, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

DAVID BOWIE BENNETT, Houston, TX. Died 28 December 1988. Warren Schiel, reports that "Jake" as he was known to his World War II buddies was a member of 45th Signal Company and served as a platoon Master Sergeant. He was a great inspiration to all his men and always displayed the greatest cheerfulness and friendship while executing his duties in a most exemplary manner. The esteem in which he was held was proven when he received a field commission during combat in Germany.

Recently, he was successful in bringing together 13 of his original platoon, together with 10 of their wives, at a reunion of the 45th Signal Company in Alva, Oklahoma. It was the first time that his group had been together or had seen each other for 43 years and it was a most heart-warming experience. Unfortunately, David was suffering from what became a terminal illness, but this did not deter him from making the trip from Houston to Alva, OK. He passed away four months later.

David is survived by his wife, Nell and two sons.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

Your Name (Please Print) _____

Address (Street or P.O. Box) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone: _____

Former or Present Thunderbird Unit. Give complete designation: _____

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

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

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