

45th Division News

April, 1990

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

THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS

HENRY BENONI ROACH



Henry Benoni "Hank" Roach was born on November 1906 in Ada, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. He graduated from Ada High School in 1924 and attended East Central State College in Ada, working part time as Superintendent's Clerk and Engineer's Helper for the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company for the Ada District. He became a full-time employee of this company in 1926

and transferred to Ardmore for a short period, then moved to the General Office in Oklahoma City in the Engineering Department.

He enlisted in Company A 179th Infantry, Oklahoma National Guard in 1927 and was commissioned a Lieutenant of Infantry in 1930. He was promoted to Captain, Infantry in 1937.

Roach was called into active service with the 45th Division in September 1940 and served as Assistant Adjutant General. He attended the Adjutant General's School at the Army War College, Washington, D.C. In 1941 he transferred from the Infantry branch to AGD. He was promoted to Major, AGD, in February 1942 and appointed as Adjutant General of the 45th Division and served in that capacity throughout World War II in Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. In October 1942, Roach was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, AGD. He was promoted to Colonel, AGD, in January 1946 and relieved from active duty in April 1946.

Upon return to civilian life, Hank rejoined the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company where he held positions as Job Analyst in the Personnel Department, and Supervisor of Safety Education. In April 1950 he became Assistant to the Advertising and Publicity Manager and was appointed Manager of that department in March, 1960. He retired from OG&E in January, 1969 after 45 years of service.

In 1965 his wife of many years, Sadie, died after being seriously ill for several years. In January 1967 he married Margaret Whitson. They moved to Lake Tenkiller in November 1968 in preparation for his retirement.

Henry Roach was active in many fields of business, civic, and religious groups. He was President of the North Oklahoma City Rotary Club from 1957-58, Chairman of the Committee to create and establish the Great Seal of Oklahoma City in 1965, and was an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City. He was a Charter Member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame, served with the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, was on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma County Red Cross, and was a member of the Oklahoma Press Association and the State Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Oklahoma Utilities Association and the National Public Utilities Advertising Association, where he was editor of their publication in 1959.

Among his many awards and honors, Henry Roach held the military awards of the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star for his outstanding and invaluable service during World War II as Adjutant General of the 45th Infantry Division.

Henry Roach died at Lake Tenkiller on 19 May 1981 and was interred in Memorial Cemetery, Oklahoma City, with military

honors. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and three step-children, Vicki Russell, Robert Whitson and Charles Whitson, seven grandchildren and many hundreds of friends and admirers.

Hank Roach was an outstanding example of the many National Guard members of the 45th Division who made the transition from citizen to soldier and performed brilliantly throughout their military careers. Without a doubt he was one of the best, if not the best, Adjutant General of any combat organization.

A THUNDERBIRD HERO

Thousands of "Heroes" were produced by the 45th Infantry Division during World War II and the Korean War, however, some have not been recognized as such due to various reasons. This is a brief summary of the actions of a "Thunderbird Hero," Platoon Sergeant Henry Weinberger, Company G, 180th Infantry Regiment during World War II.

Henry was drafted into the Army in 1941. He was first assigned to Camp Grant, Illinois and then to Camp Wolters, Texas where he received basic training. Upon completion of basic training he was sent to Camp Barkeley, Texas and subsequently assigned to Company G, 180th Infantry. He remained with the unit until the late stages of the war, when he returned to the U.S. on a "45 day rotation furlough." He served in combat in Sicily, Italy, France and Germany.

Weinberger's parents were of German background, and during his youth they taught him the German language which he was able to put to good use many times during the war. On one occasion near Hagenau, France he and members of his platoon were searching through thick brush for a member of their unit who had not returned from a patrol. They located him with a group of 16 German soldiers who declared that they had Henry's platoon surrounded. Weinberger speaking in German, convinced the Commander of the German troops that they, not the Americans, were surrounded, and demanded that the Germans surrender. The German commander proclaimed that he would surrender only to an officer. Henry said he was an officer. The Germans were skeptical until an American private stepped forward, saluted Weinberger, stood at attention and called him "sir" at every opportunity. The Germans were convinced that he was an officer and surrendered.

Later in Germany, he had a much more dangerous situation and was able to use his knowledge of the German language to good advantage. Despite the numerous deaths of American soldiers on each side of his platoon's position, he was ordered by his Company Commander to advance and hold his position. The only cover he and his men could find was a large concrete building, and he ordered his men to dig in near the building. A soldier from an adjoining platoon approached and said that "the hill was full of Germans" and they had killed the rest of the company. Henry told his men the only thing to do was stay and fight. Gradually the firing from the German side waned, and they could hear the voice of a German shouting "comrade," indicating that they wanted to surrender. Weinberger called out to them speaking in German, resulting in his platoon taking 37 German prisoners.

Weinberger was discharged from the Army 12 May 1945 and returned to his hometown, Butternut, Wisconsin. He worked

for the Flambeau Paper Company in Butternut for 35 years, retiring in 1982.

Awards and decorations include: Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart w/cluster, Combat Infantry Badge, American Campaign Medal and ETO Medal w/arrow-head and five battle stars.

(Editor's Note: This article was condensed from a news article written by George Tresnak of the Park Falls Herald, submitted by Raul Trevino)

PLANNING FOR 45th ANNUAL REUNION

General Reunion Chairman Chris Bills is moving ahead with planning for the "45TH ANNUAL REUNION" 23-25 August 1990 at the Hilton Inn West, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Military Department will conduct a military parade in conjunction with our reunion, in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the World War II Era.

There is a distinct possibility that the business meeting and ladies activities will be scheduled on "FRIDAY" instead of Saturday as has been the practice in the past.

Finalized plans will be furnished on or about 1 July in a packet which will include forms for reunion registration, hotel reservations, transportation requirements and the July edition of the 45th Division News.

McALESTER OKLAHOMA DESIGNATES "THUNDERBIRD" PARK

The city of McAlester, Oklahoma has designated an existing park at 10th Street and Pierce Avenue as "45th Infantry Division THUNDERBIRD PARK".

The City Council of McAlester passed Resolution number 89-28, on 26 December 1989 expressing appreciation on behalf of the citizens of McAlester to the 45th Infantry Division for its many years of service to the community.

Official announcement of the park designation was made by Mayor William B. Rayburn.

(Editor's Note: Bill Rayburn was a member of the Second Infantry Division in World War II, the 179th Infantry, 45th Division in Korea and commanded the Selected Reserve Force Brigade of the Oklahoma Army National Guard during the "Vietnam" era.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I received your application for continued membership in the 45th Division Association. As you know, I am the wife of a deceased member. I enjoy the newsletter and I would like to continue receiving it.

My husband Clarence L. Smith was a Master Sergeant in Division Headquarters Company during World War II. He served in Italy, France and Germany. He was injured in 1945 while serving in Germany. He died February 13, 1988 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C. I am enclosing a check for \$15 in order to continue membership for four years. MARGARET R. SMITH, 8 Mackay Lane, Newark, DE 19713.

My thanks and congratulations to the 45th Division Association News Staff for the splendid article on Jack Treadwell in the October newsletter.

I was proud and privileged to have served with Jack and to have witnessed at close range, his overwhelming and courageous actions of 18 March 1945.

It was gratifying to see his deeds acknowledged in your publication. O.C. RUDNER, 622 Little Silver Point Road, Little Silver, NJ 07739.

I served in Battery D, 145 AAA Battalion during the Korean Conflict and recently retired from teaching after 29 years in that profession. After performing my military service I continued my education and graduated from Mississippi State College and Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. SANK OWEN, Route 4, Box 30, Aberdeen, MS 39730.

I am sorry I didn't get my dues to you before the year slid by, but am sending it to you now. I sure don't want to miss out on any of the 45th Division News.

My service with the 179th Infantry and the 45th Division

means a lot to me. I am enclosing the name of a potential member for the association. Please send him a membership application. Keep up the good work you fellows are doing. EUGENE J. SICKLES, School Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186.

In reply to your notice in the January 1990 issue of the 45th Division News, please be informed that I served with Company B, 120th Engineer Battalion throughout World War II in Italy, France and Germany.

I remained in the division until deactivation at Camp Bowie, Texas in late 1945.

I would sincerely appreciate receiving the addresses of any other members of Company B during that period. DAVID J. DAYTON, 925 Camino Verde Circle, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

In October 1989 my wife and I and twenty-one other Hawaii Korean War Veterans and their spouses journeyed to Korea to see the "Fruits of our Labor." We were not disappointed. Of the twenty-two veterans from Hawaii, five were from the 45th Division who served in combat with the 180th and 279th Infantry Regiments. These five were Charles Chang, Robert E. Lee, Kiyoshi Hamakawa, Royce Ebesu and Louis Baldovi. We called it a "Mini-Reunion" of Thunderbirds in Korea and it was really special, being able to return with fellow Thunderbirds to the country we helped liberate.

The Korean Veterans Association held a banquet in our honor and we were awarded the Korean War Medal by its President, General Joon-yeol So, (retired). It was quite an occasion. While in Korea we visited the National Cemetery, The American Battle Monument, The Panmunjon Peace Talk Site and the Third North Korean Infiltration Tunnel. At the American Battle Monument near the Imjin River, Charles Chang, Royce Ebesu and I had the privilege of honoring our fallen Thunderbird comrades by placing flowers at the base of the State of Oklahoma flag (flags of the fifty states circle the monument). We could not help but shiver with emotion when the sound of taps ended the ceremony. LOUIS BALDOVI, 46150 Nona Loop, Kaneohe, HI 96744.

I note in January 1990 Newsletter that you lack a unit/organization for me. I enlisted in Battery C, 160th FA in May 1932 and was discharged as a Sergeant in March 1937.

Shortly thereafter I was commissioned as a 2d Lieutenant in the Marine Corps and became a fighter pilot. In WW II I was Skipper of Marine Fighter Squadron 225, as well as operations officer of the Group. I was a Lieutenant Colonel when WW II ended. I resigned from the regulars, took a reserve commission, and retired as a Colonel in 1963.

I can well remember landing my dive bomber in Abilene, Texas in November 1941 enroute to California from Pensacola and spending a great evening visiting with my brother John Embry and friends from Chandler, OK.

I am a Life member of the association and very proud to have served with the 45th. In 1932 we were horse drawn artillery but motorized in 1933 or 1934. JAMES A. EMBRY, JR., 3435 Westheimer Road No. 611, Houston, TX 77027.

I entered the 45th Division in December 1941 after basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas and was still in the division when the war in Europe ended. I was a member of Service Company, 180th Infantry.

I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Louisiana State University in January 1949. The University President at that time was Lt. Gen. Troy Middleton (former division commander). I studied accounting from the Extension Division of LSU while I was in the 45th and took my final exam for Accounting I at Anzio, Italy.

I retired in 1984 as President of a general insurance agency and my hobbies are traveling and playing golf.

I would like to hear from anyone from Service Company, 180 Infantry. ROBERT L. ROGERS, 1672 S. Woodhaven Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815.

Last spring my wife and I were in Oklahoma City and quite by accident learned of the existence of the 45th Division Museum, while visiting there, I joined the association.

We returned in August for the reunion. What a thrill it was to see buddies I had served with in Europe during World War II. Seven of us from Headquarters Company, 120 Engineer Battalion were reunited for the first time since the war.

I'm sure that many more of our comrades would like to participate in these reunions if they were made aware of them.

I am really looking forward to the 45th Annual Reunion of the 45th Infantry Division. CECIL F. HALL, Box 151, Saguache, CO 81149.

My husband John L. Gage suffered a severe stroke affecting his left side in September 1987. He was left paralyzed and without speech, however his spirits are good and his mind is super.

John was a member of the 171st Field Artillery in World War II. HELEN M. GAGE, 249 South Pearl, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

I moved to Billings, MT thirty years ago and retired from Continental Can Company after 32 years employment.

I am enjoying the wonderful fishing and hunting in our "Big Sky" country. Don't know of a better way to enjoy retirement. JOHN E. MARSHAL, 2919 Old Hardin Rd., Billings, MT 59101 (Company B, 179 Infantry).

I was a member of Battery A, 160 Field Artillery B in Korea. Initially assigned to FDC and later served as Chief of Section on the Howitzers and fired the last round of the war for the battalion. It was a delayed shot and the shell casing was presented to the Battery Commander.

I would like to contact Hoyt Poe, Battery Commander in 1953 or Johnny McCormick who was the mess sergeant at this time. ROBERT E. FRAZIER, 1013 Broadway, Pasadena, TX 77506.

I am the correspondent for Heavy Mortar Company, 180th Infantry. I joined Cannon Company, 180 Infantry on 12 September 1946 and we had one officer and twelve enlisted men.

When we mobilized for Korea I was First Sergeant and was promoted to Warrant Officer in March 1951. I served in the Replacement Company at Fort Polk and later worked in the Personnel Section of the provisional Training Regiment left at Fort Polk when the division departed for Japan.

When I rejoined the Division in Japan I was assigned to the 145 AAA. Upon return to the United States I was assigned to the 279th Infantry commanded by Colonel John Hillman.

I retired in 1981 as a Chief Warrant Officer W-4, with 37 years service. LUTHER B. STEPHENS, P.O. Box 317, Sulphur, OK 73086.

The 45th Division News was delivered last week, and I find myself anonymous. I was among the first Selective Service inductees assigned to the 45th Division. I was inducted at Santa Fe, New Mexico on 30 January 1941 and was immediately sent

to Fort Sill, Oklahoma and assigned to the 120th Quartermaster Regiment.

After basic training, my first assignment was as a clerk at Regimental Headquarters, later I was assigned as Company Clerk for Headquarters Company. When the battalion was reduced to company size, I was assigned to Class I as Subsistence NCO.

I remained with the 45th Division all through the European Campaign. At the end of the War in Europe, I was transferred to the 103rd Division for return to the United States. I was discharged 26 September 1945.

I was born in Lexington, OK and after long service in the 45th Division I will always be a Thunderbird!!!

I have not visited the museum to date, but hope to visit there in the near future. Keep up the good work for the association. WARREN S. GRAY, 1703 Redbud, Odessa, TX 79761.

I was elected Vice President of the 157th Infantry Association at our annual reunion in Williamsburg, VA in September 1989. After the reunion about 110 members and wives traveled to Europe where we toured the old battlefields of the 45th in France and Germany.

It was an exciting and emotional adventure, which we will probably never again have an opportunity to repeat. The highlight of the trip was a visit to the remote battlefield at Reipertswiller where so many of our boys sacrificed their lives in the Vosges Mountains during the bitter winter of 1944-1945.

LTC Hugh Foster acted as our guide during this segment of the trip. In Nice, France, Felix Sparks and I received "Eagle of Nice" awards for our roles in the liberation of the Concentration Camp at Dachau, Germany. In Aschaffenburg, Germany I had the honor of presenting the Mayor of that city with a plaque of enduring friendship. All in all it was a grand trip.

I am a retired Physician and Professor of Medicine at Louisiana State University. I now devote my time to writing Non-Medical books. My most recent titles are "Adolph Hitler and the Secrets of the Holy Lance" and "Hitler's Ashes-Seeds of a New Reich." HOWARD A BUECHNER, M.C., 300 Cuddihy Drive, Metairie, LA 70005.

I am sending a check for a ten year membership renewal and a word of appreciation for news of many of my friends that I have not heard from or of in many years. I have pretty well lost track of so many members of my former units.

I have wondered more than once if you might remember me, I enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard using my nickname of "Pat" and that was my enlisted name Pat (NMI) Partridge for more than five years after the 45th was Federalized.

I have some problem now, remembering which fellows were in each unit. I place you in Service Company, 179th Infantry,



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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where I started out under Captain Harold S. Moler. Later I was assigned to the unit commanded by Corky Strickland, a great person and an excellent Company Commander whom I shall never forget.

I was a mechanic and welder and eventually wound up in 700 Ordnance Company where I remained until transferred to 45 Quartermaster Company at Anzio. Several weeks after the Southern France Invasion I was reassigned to the 16th Replacement Depot near Paris where I remained until departure for the U.S. and discharge 4 July 1945 at Camp Chaffee, AR.

I remained in contact with Carl Tyler for many years and visited with him in 1982, when we spent some time visiting several former Service Company members including Ernie Cermak.

When the Korean War broke out, I enlisted in the 45th Quartermaster Company where I remained until February 1951 when I transferred to a newly formed unit at Fort Sill, OK, the 13th Transportation Helicopter Company. I was discharged from that unit in 1953.

I plan to visit Oklahoma City this next summer and renew some old friendships. I would like to hear from anyone who remembers me. **GEORGE A. "PAT" PARTRIDGE**, Rt. #1, Box 28600, Manchester, TN 37355. (Editor's Note: Yes, I'm the same character, and look forward to seeing you at the annual reunion in August.)

It is a privilege for me to become a "LIFE" member and to help the association in this small way.

I am now a retiree after thirty six years as an accountant for Scott Paper Company.

Am still in contact with three former World War II buddies from Company C, 179th Infantry; Eugene Bender, Charles Crider and Richard Fast.

I sure do enjoy the 45th Division News. **JACK LAUFER**, 28 Carriage Drive, Media, PA 19063. (Editor's Note: We sent membership applications to your buddies.)

LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

LOUIS BALDOVI, 46-150 Nona Loop Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744, Company A, 180th Infantry would like to hear from Wayne Seeley and others who served with him on Old Baldy, Alligator Jaw, Punchbowl and Heartbreak Ridge.

LOUIS J. ARSENAULT, 101 Vandewater Street, Providence, RI 02908, would like to hear from anyone who knew him during World War II. He was a member of Company M, 180th Infantry. Louis was assigned to the division in May 1942 and was Wounded-in-Action during the Italian Campaign in May 1944.

JOHN LEITCH, 3 Oakwood Street, Greenlawn, NY 11740 was originally a member of Second Battalion, 158 Field Artillery. When the division was triangularized, he was assigned to the 207th FA Bn, (Btry A). He served with the 207th in Panama and other points South. John would like to hear from some of his fellow members of the 207th FA.

MALCOLM KEATING, P.O. Box 267, Laplace, LA 70068 would like to contact Geymer Beville, last known address was in Savannah, GA and Harmon Barton, last known address was Ogden, Utah. They served together in Company C, 279th Infantry in Louisiana, Japan and Korea.

DONALD GAUGHAN, Box 6, Star Route, Morris NY 13808, would like to contact William R. Jones, a member of Company I, 180th Infantry during World War II.

GEORGE H. ALEXANDER, 23 Hampton Court, Greenville, SC 29689, would like to hear from any of the following individuals who were members of Battery A, 189 Field Artillery during the period 1950-1952: Claude G. "Bill" Baughman, Coos Bay Oregon; Charles M. Bettis; George W. Cartledge, Whitmarsh Island, Georgia; Jesse M. Wachter, Birmingham, Alabama.

LOUIS BALDOVI, 46-150 Nona Loop, Kaneohe, HI 96744, a prospective author is seeking to contact veterans who were assigned to Company A, 180th Infantry Regiment, during the period April 1952 to July 1953. He would also like to obtain a

copy of a book titled, "Thunderbird: A History of the 45th Infantry Division, The Korean Campaign," 1953, written by Lt. William R. O'Connell. If you have information concerning its availability, please contact Louis direct.

REUNION NOTICES

HAWAII VETERANS. Veterans who served with the 45th Infantry Division in Korea from December 1951 to July 1953 are planning a reunion for 27-28 July 1990 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Interested Hawaiian Thunderbirds are asked to contact Louis Baldovi, 46-150 Nona Loop, Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744 or call 808/247-0747.

COMPANY L, 180TH INFANTRY. Reunion 2-4 July 1990 in Calhoun, GA, for more information contact: Lucious B. Gilbreath, 120 West Belmont Drive, Calhoun, GA 30701.

TANK COMPANY, 179th INFANTRY (KOREA). Second Bi-Annual Reunion 22-24 June 1990 at the National Guard Armory, Ardmore, OK. Contact Robert Adams at 62 Broadlawn, Ardmore, OK 73401 for further information.

COMPANY D, 180 INFANTRY. 10-11 August 1990 at the Cinderella Motel in Shawnee, OK. Contact Merle L. Davis, 804 East Franklin, Shawnee, OK 74801, 405/273-5564.

189 FIELD ARTILLERY BN (KOREA). 23-25 August 1990, at the Hilton Inn West, Oklahoma City (in conjunction with National Reunion of 45th Division). For further information contact Robert Faken, 1613 Richway Drive, Ponca City, OK 74601.

COMPANY G, 180th INFANTRY. 25-27 May 1990, Holiday Inn, McAlester, Oklahoma. Contact Jim Phipps, P.O. Box 347, Clarcona, FL 32710.

45th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION. 23-25 August 1990, Hilton Inn West, I-40 and Meridian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Military Department is planning a military parade in conjunction with our reunion to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the World War II Era. (EDITOR'S NOTE: We hope the several unit/organizational reunions scheduled in close proximity to the dates of the National Annual Reunion do not detract from maximum attendance at this important event.)

REUNION REPORTS

MEDICAL DETACHMENT 120th ENGR COMBAT BN (KOREA). First reunion in Nashville, TN October 5-7, 1989.

Attendees were John Braswell, A. G. Carter, Fred Kirby, Kenneth Long, Jerry Mills, Paul Martin, Charles Roddy and spouses. We had a great time and are looking forward to our next reunion in Oklahoma City in 1991. Charles R. Roddy, 26245 E. Baseline #29, Highland, CA 92346.

COMPANY L, 180th INFANTRY (KOREA). Reunion held 10-12 June 1989 at the American Legion Building in Hartshorne, Oklahoma. Attendees were principally from personnel assigned during the period 1950-1952.

Fifty five members and their families were in attendance representing 12 States. Some had not seen each other since 1952 and a good time was had by all swapping and embellishing war stories. Submitted by Leroy E. Ford.

45th CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP (WORLD WAR II), held their 9th Reunion at the Quality Inn International, Orlando, FL, 9-15 November 1989. Total attendance was 64, which included 31 troopers, one new face, their wives and guests. The event was graciously hosted by Al and Sam Desrosiers.

Reunion #10 will be held 3-6 October 1990 in El Paso, Texas. For further information contact: James Parks, 831 Anthony Road, Canutillo, Texas 79835, 915/877-3059.

NATIONAL GUARD DIVISIONS IN THE WORLD WARS

by Louis Scott

Much of the combat power of an Army is concentrated in its fighting divisions. From 1917 until the Army-wide reorganization of the 1960's, most U.S. Army divisions could be found in the troop structure of the Army National Guard.

Seventeen Guard divisions were called into active service for World War I, including one, the 42nd "Rainbow" Division, that was made up of troops from 26 States and the District of Columbia to symbolize the nation as a whole. All 17 Guard divisions were sent to France, but only 11 fought as divisions (26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 32nd, 33rd, 35th, 36th, 37th and 42nd).

There were 18 Guard divisions by the time World War II came around and all of them were called into active Federal service on a staggered time table and all of them served with distinction in combat. The 39th had not been reorganized after WWI nor had the 42nd, but three new divisions had been added, the 43rd, 44th and 45th. Nine served in the ETO (26th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 34th, 35th, 36th, 44th, 45th) and nine in the Pacific area (27th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 37th, 38th, 40th, 41st, 43rd). In 1943, the 42nd Infantry Division was activated for WWII, but not as a Guard division.

Four combat divisions were in the first Guard increment called up in September 1940 and each proved their worth in combat:

30th Infantry Division from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia.

41st Infantry Division from Oregon, Washington, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

44th Infantry Division from New York and New Jersey.

45th Infantry Division from Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona was brought into existence after World War I but became one of the best, and best known, of Guard and Regular divisions in World War II.

There were four cavalry divisions carried as Guard units prior to World War II and Army leaders had declared them essential only a few months before the mobilization, but, ironically, all were disbanded before the call up and their component elements converted to other missions.

There was another division in the thick of the Pacific fighting that was made up of Guardsmen, but was not a Guard division. The Americal Division was created in New Caledonia in 1942 out of Guard regiments and battalions that became available when the massive old "square" Guard divisions were triangularized.

National Guardsmen and Guard units fought in every theater during WWII, in 34 separate campaigns, on almost every battlefield and in seven assault landings. Guardsmen were awarded 14 Medals of Honor, 50 Distinguished Service Crosses, 48 Distinguished Flying Crosses, more than 500 Silver Stars, plus many Bronze Stars.

The citizen soldier of the National Guard, augmented by many draftees and volunteers, served with great distinction and high honor in both World Wars. Every member can be proud of their Guard heritage and the manner in which they conducted themselves in combat.

YOUR ASSOCIATION STAFF

The following persons are members of your association "VOLUNTEER" staff: REX WILSON, NEAL DODDS, EVA LOU MOON, NOMA JO STRICKLAND, LOUIS SCOTT, EDDIE COPE, BILL COLEMAN AND HERMAN WILSON.

Bill is the Gift Shop Chairman; Eddie is the Gift Shop Treasurer; Eva Lou and Noma perform secretarial duties; process dues and reunion registrations and assist Neal and Rex in performing their duties; Scotty is now writing the "Thunderbird Legends" series, assists in other areas of the newsletter and started the "Combat Chronicles" in the last issue; Herman (not related to Rex) takes care of setting up the newsletter and getting it printed; Neal is the Treasurer, he processes all funds received and paid out and co-signs all checks; Rex is the Secretary and Editor of the newsletter and co-signs all checks.

Duties performed include the following: Delinquent dues letter 1 January each year (1203 this year); maintain computer-

ized records of membership, financial records and gift shop inventory; process correspondence; bulk mailout of the 45th Division News and reunion data; processing items from the gift shop for mailing to members; operating a satellite gift shop at the reunion site; preparation and distribution of minutes for quarterly board of directors meetings and the annual reunion; preparation of Federal Tax Returns (TD Forms 990) for the association proper (Operating Fund) and the Educational Fund and preparation of banquet and memorial programs for the annual reunion.

We appreciate your indulgence when we make an occasional mistake, do things differently than you would have under the same circumstances, or do not respond to your correspondence immediately. Remember there are five thousand of you out there.

Our normal work day is Tuesday of each week, however, most volunteers work from 80 to 130 days each year. Work days other than Tuesdays are dictated by the workload, i.e.: newsletter, reunion, etc.

All of our volunteers have a long time association with the 45th Infantry Division as follows:

Eddie Cope: WWII - Army Air Corps. Korea - 279th Infantry.

Bill Coleman: Korea - HQ 45th Infantry Division.

Noma Jo Strickland: Retired employee of Oklahoma Military Department. Husband was a World War II member of the division.

Eva Lou Moon: Retired employee of Oklahoma Military Department.

Scotty: WWII - 700 Ordnance Company, Korea - 158 Field Artillery.

Neal: WWII - 189 Field Artillery. Korea - 45th Division Artillery.

Rex: WWII - 179th Infantry. Korea - 45th Quartermaster Company.

Herman: Current member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

COMBAT CHRONICLES

Anzio Beachhead, Italy, March 1944. The major combat activity of the 45th Infantry Division during this month was a continuing artillery duel between the division artillery and that of the Germans. Patrolling on both sides continued active throughout the month, and brief but severe clashes were frequent. The British 1st Division was on the left of the 45th and the American 3rd Division was on the right.

There was a decided increase in artillery fire on the forward elements of the division and the enemy patrolled vigorously in small groups of 30 to 50 in the division front and their tank and vehicular traffic increased, especially in the Factory area. Enemy artillery was increasingly heavy in the PADIGLIONE area and on the crossroads in the vicinity of NETTUNO where the 700th Ordnance Co. was located.

During the month 78 45th troops were KIA; 8 DOW; 398 WIA; 1075 sick or injured; and 6 MIA. Division artillery fired a total of 62,627 rounds.

April 1944. During April 45th Division activity was confined to patrolling, small raids, and reduced artillery and mortar fires. The enemy interdicted roads, harassed both forward and rear areas and fired some counterbattery. Small patrol clashes were frequent, enemy patrols and raids were repulsed by division troops without difficulty. During the month 46 were KIA; 9 DOW; 207 WIA; 1332 sick or injured; and 6 MIA. Division artillery fired a total of 70,941 rounds.

May 1944. The first 23 days of May were marked with the usual infantry and artillery activity. In preparation for the beachhead breakout scheduled for 23 May, the 48 weapons of the division artillery were supplemented by 252 additional artillery pieces from VI Corps and 5th Army: 18-75mm, 108-105mm, 24-155mm, 4-8 inch, 64-90mm AA, 2-40mm Bofors, plus 24 British 25 pounders and 8 British 5.5 inch pieces. The

40mm Bofors were fired with telling effects on ground targets in what is thought to be the first time this weapon was used on terrestrial targets in an offensive operation. The four battalions of 90mm AA guns were massed on area targets. This massive concentration of artillery in such a small area contributed greatly toward reduction of enemy resistance and aided the infantry breakout that began on 23 May with the 180th Infantry in the center, 179th on left and 157th on right. The enemy quickly reinforced the area in front of the 45th, but our infantry breached the enemy front and expanded through the gap. 186 prisoners were taken. On 24 May a reinforced enemy battalion supported by tanks attacked strongly in 180th sector, but were repulsed and severe casualties inflicted. One hundred unburied enemy dead were found in 157th area plus many other dead in houses and strongpoints. 143 prisoners were taken. Attack continued during balance of month against strong enemy resistance. Division elements were fighting astride the ANZIO-ALBANO highway with supporting tanks firing direct on their objective. A total of 792 prisoners were taken during the last 7 days of the month. Large quantities of enemy material, weapons, vehicles, ammunition and other equipment were captured or destroyed.

The 45th Division had 215 KIA; 13 DOW; 1410 WIA; 1963 sick or injured; and 97 MIA. Division artillery fired 163,724 rounds of ammunition with 89,322 of that amount expended between 23 and 31 May.

June 1944. About 3 June it became apparent that enemy defenses on the high ground before ROME were breaking up and troops withdrawing. Only demolitions and delaying action impeded movement to and across the TIBER River. On 6 June, with the capture of ROME, the 45th Division was withdrawn from the line and preparations were begun to move to the vicinity of BATTIPAGLIA, Italy for rest, replacements and training. 506 prisoners were taken during the month. The division lost 214 KIA; 33 DOW; 360 WIA; 2178 sick or injured; and 6 MIA. Division artillery fired 43,120 rounds of ammunition.

During the remainder of June, the division completed the move to vicinity of SALERNO-BATTIPAGLIA, where 10 months earlier the division made its first amphibious landing in ITALY, and began training for another amphibious combat invasion. On 21 June the division was relieved from assignment to Fifth Army and assigned to Allied Forces Hq. and attached to Seventh Army for administration, planning and training.

Germany, April 1945. The last full month of combat for the 45th Infantry Division during World War II was a busy one that saw the division capturing a tremendous amount of German real estate, prisoners and equipment. And, regardless what others may claim, the 157th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division seized the infamous DACHAU Concentration Camp on 29 April 1945. Conditions in the camp exceeded any possible imagination. Thousands of political prisoners mirrored in their bodies, minds and uncomprehending looks the untold brutalities and sadism they had suffered. Bodies of former inmates were stacked in dunnage fashion awaiting cremation. Boxcars and flatcars on the railroad siding were filled with emaciated corpses. It was the most vicious example of a war crime ever uncovered by the Division.

One of the most fierce battles during the month was at ASCHAFFENBURG, where the enemy fought savagely to the last man. Major Lambert of the German Army finally capitulated and surrendered the city on 3 April.

The division attack swung in a wide circle to a generally south to southeast direction with the ultimate objective being MUNICH. Objectives seized included BAD BRUCKENAU, SPEICHERZ, HETTENHAUSEN and GERSFELD.

The MAIN River was successfully crossed on 12 April and the important railroad city of BAMBERG was taken after intensive fighting on 13 April. A huge ammunition dump and warehouses containing large quantities of food and supplies were seized.

The division continued its advance toward MUNICH in a forced crossing of the REGNITZ River and captured NURN-

BURG, where Nazism began. The fighting was fierce and house-to-house. One of the highlights of 18 April was the capture of the stadium where Hitler held so many of his political rallies. The battle for NURNBERG was over on 20 April in a complete victory that totally destroyed the Nazi defenders. Ninety 88mm guns were captured or destroyed.

On 21 April, one rifle company from each Infantry Regiment was formed into a composite battalion for the XV Corps flag-raising ceremony in ADOLPH HITLER PLAZA in NURNBERG.

On 27 April, the Division completed crossing the DANUBE River after overcoming fierce resistance and continued in their advance toward MUNICH. PFAFFENHOFEN and SCHROBENHAUSEN were taken.

On 29 April, elements of the 157th Infantry captured DACHAU and the concentration camp while the 179th and 180th Infantry continued in their sweep toward MUNICH.

On 30 April, on the 45th Divisions's 511th day of combat (out of 691 days overseas), elements of the division attacked, cleared and entered MUNICH, where it was ordered by Seventh Army to hold and occupy the City, thus ending active combat for the Division.

May 1945. The 45th Infantry Division occupied, garrisoned and maintained civil administration of MUNICH, DACHAU, FURSTENFELDBRUCK and environs throughout the month, including control of the DACHAU Concentration Camp, where it was a major effort to identify and repatriate the inmates while caring for their well-being and return to better health.

WORLD WAR II COMBAT STATISTICS 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION 10 July 1943 to 10 May 1945

	KILLED	WOUNDED	SICK & INJURED	MISSING	TOTAL	PRISONERS CAPTURED
SICILY	302	717	2728	167	3914	11266
ITALY	1808	6060	24110	1927	33905	3035
FRANCE	1178	5269	12285	1449	20181	16350
GERMANY	362	1683	2524	72	4641	72716
TOTAL	3650	23729	41647	3615	62641	103367

THUNDERBIRD QUILT WINNER WILL DONATE TO MUSEUM

A drawing for the "Thunderbird" Quilt was held at the December 1989 Third Annual Oklahoma National Guard (Army/ Air) Christmas Party.

Chances on the Quilt were offered for each one dollar donation toward re-roofing the 45th Infantry Division Museum building.

Presentation of the Quilt was made to the winner Robert F. Sonnenfeld (U.S. Army Retired), at the December meeting of the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars.

Bob said he would donate the quilt to the museum "after he had a chance to enjoy it for a while."

Principal "Project Workers" were Lois Batey and Jennifer Weber pictured below with Bob Sonnenfeld.



★ ★ ★ THUNDERBIRD DEATHS ★ ★ ★

JAMES H. CARPENTER, Albuquerque, NM deceased 12 November 1989. Jim commanded Company F, 179th Infantry from February 1942 until February 1944 when he was captured by the German Army at Anzio and remained a Prisoner of War until cessation of hostilities.

Jim enlisted in the regulars in October 1933 and retired in June 1960. He served in combat units in World War II and Korea. He received the following awards and decorations: Silver Star, Bronze Star w/cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart w/3 clusters, Korean Service Medal and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

After retiring from the Army, Jim served as a Training Coordinator for the Army Reserve from 1961 to 1984.

Survivors include his wife Helen, one son and one grandson.

CHARLES W. QUALLS, SR., Stillwater, OK, died 13 January 1990. Charles was a WWII member of the 180th Infantry and served in combat in Sicily and Italy. He was Wounded-in-Action in the Italian Campaign.

Charlie and his wife moved to Stillwater in 1982 to be near their grandchildren. He was retired from the Insurance business in Oklahoma City.

HOMER C. RIFE, Company I, 180th Infantry, Korea. Information received from Dillard H. Bucklen, Fort Pierce, FL that his nephew Homer C. Rife was deceased and that Homer had served in Company I, 180th Infantry in Korea, the same unit that Dillard had served in during combat in Europe in World War II.

DAVID McALLISTER, Austin, TX, died 27 August 1989. David served as a member of Headquarters, 45th Division Artillery during World War II. He served during combat actions in Sicily, Italy, France and Germany.

David earned his bachelor of arts degree at the University of Maine, his master of arts degree at Columbia University and his doctor of philosophy degree at the University of Texas at Austin.

During his career Dr. McAllister served as a professor of educational administration at Arkansas Tech, Russellville, AR and served in Turkey, Iran and Nepal with the US Agency for International Development.

Survivors include his wife Mariana and one step-son.

JAMES H. HUTSON, Alva, OK, died 29 November 1989 at age 72. Jim was a Korean veteran of the 189th Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Division. He joined the Army in 1941 and served in Europe during World War II and was released from active duty in August 1946.

He joined the 45th Division in 1949 and after returning from the Korean Conflict was employed as Administrative Officer of the 189th Field Artillery.

He later left employment with the Oklahoma Military Department and purchased the Woods County Abstract Corporation.

Survivors include his wife Dorlene, two daughters, one son and one grandson.

JAMES H. WEAVER, Okemah, OK, died 20 December 1989 at his home. He mobilized with the 45th Infantry Division in September 1940 as Commanding Officer of the Okemah Unit. He later transferred to the Airborne Infantry and served with the 13th Airborne Division in Europe during World War II. He rejoined the 45th division after World War II and was mobilized with the Division in 1950 for the Korean Conflict.

Jim commanded the Provisional Training Regiment that remained at Camp Polk after the Division departed for Japan. The mission was to complete basic training for all assigned personnel. This was a difficult task but was successfully completed under Jim's leadership and guidance.

Survivors include his wife Mattie Lou, one son and two daughters.

EUGENE C. BRACZYK, died 24 June 1989 at age 71. Eugene was a member of Company D, 157th Infantry during World War II. He served with the division in Africa, Sicily and Italy. He was Wounded-in-Action in Italy and awarded the Purple Heart.

Shortly after his release from Active Duty he was diagnosed as having Multiple Sclerosis and was confined to a wheelchair.

Gene's widow Dorothy reports that they were married 47 years and had one daughter and five lovely grandchildren whom he loved very much.

★NEW MEMBERS★ SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

FOUR YEAR MEMBERSHIPS

Charles Bradfield	Charles R. King
Joesph P. Carlson	Robert Burns Mason
Irving L. Christiansen	Delton Miller
Robert Lee Cornett	Alexander J. Miskeil
Anthony R. DePierro	James William Mize
Dan J. Durino	James Pratt
Marvin R. Fletcher	Stanley E. Richardson
Marvin Gault	Robert L. Rogers
Arthur A. Goldberger	Robert J. Russell
Harry L. Hamilton	Frank C. Taylor
William P. Haynes, Jr.	Frank W. Vertin
Teri Hurt	William G. (Bill) Webster
William P. Keller	Franke P. Werner

TEN YEAR MEMBERSHIPS

Richard T. Atwood	Gilbert J. Holtz
Walter B. Cadien	David M. Muff
Charles L. Gambrell	Jerry A. Parco
John C. Glahn	

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TAPS

Edward L. Balmain	George Hargrave, Jr.
Raymond Bohannon	Paschal Menifee Huff
Eugene E. Braczyk	James H. Hutson
James Harold Carpenter	William C. Martin, Jr.
Clifton Howard Buck	David McAllister
J. B. Cartright	William Polsley
T. J. Copenhaver	Charles W. "Charlie" Qualls, Sr.
Homer J. Dolch	Wilton J. (Frenchie) Richard
Joseph Dugan, Jr.	Homer C. Rife
Ray Emde	William J. Rogers
Wilbur Eslinger	Randall H. Slayden
Susan Lee "Suzi" Foote	James Henry Weaver
Clem V. Griffin	William E. Wright

ASSOCIATION NEEDS UNIT/ORGANIZATION DATA FOR LIFE MEMBERS

Former unit/organization is needed for the following "LIFE" members to complete association records:

NAME	CITY AND STATE		
Hadwiger, William A.	Alva, OK	Keltch, George F.	Richardson, TX
Hager, William P.	Leola, PA	Kennedy, Edmund	Pawhuska, OK
Hamilton, Arthur Jack	Napa, CA	Kiefot, Deloy N.	Aneta, ND
Hankins, Frank E.	Lawton, OK	King, Leo C.	Tulsa, OK
Harrison, W. E.	Hingham, MA	Kirby, Robert	Westville, OK
Hathorn, Donald R.	Burneyville, OK	Kiwala, J. G.	Lansing, MI
Helix, Daniel C.	Concord, CA	Knowlton, Donald E.	Fresno, CA
Hennes, Donald G.	Menomonee Falls, WI	Kobyiski, John A.	Kindred, ND
Hermes, William T.	Philadelphia, PA	Koziuk, Albert A.	Spokane, WA
Hill, Bernard W.	Mountain Home, AR	Krieger, Ralph M.	Abilene, TX
Hill, William E.	Warner, OK	Kruse, Wilbert L.	Fort Branch, IN
Hinrichsen, Lloyd G.	Ute, IA	Kuruc, Andrew	Colonia, NJ
Hirsch, Arnold W.	Donora, PA	La Roche, George B.	Sacramento, CA
Hohon, Frank	Bayonne, NJ	Lambert, Carl A.	Winnebago, MN
Hood, Fred H.	Aurora, CO	Lanier, Joseph E.	Fayetteville, NC
Howard, Frank	Trenton, NC	Larson, Larry	N. Little Rock, AR
Huggins, Earl L.	Las Vegas, NV	Lataille, Joseph	Wantagh, NY
Husted, Rex E.	Springdale, AR	Lavine, Bernard	Syracuse, NY
Hutchins, Candyce	Las Vegas, NV	Lawter, Z. H., Jr.	Okla. City, OK
Innis, Leroy D.	Muskogee, OK	Lewellen, P. R.	Garden City, KS
Ishmael, Golden	Gage, OK	Lewis, Leo E.	Bethany, OK
Jackson, Glen E.	Tulsa, OK	Liles, Harold R.	Anadarko, OK
Jennings, J. B.	Ada, OK	Long, J. B.	Okla. City, OK
Johnson, James R.	El Reno, OK	Luzadder, William	Lockridge, IA
Johnson, Joseph F.	Monterey, CA	Magaro, Richard S.	Enola, PA
Johnson, Robert C.	Richardson, TX	Mahon, Max	Borger, TX
Johnson, William G.	Gulf Shores, AL	Maio, Joseph R.	Colorado Springs, CO
Johnston, Carl R.	Pawnee, OK	Matthews, Billy G.	Abbeville, LA
Johnston, William J.	Colchester, CT	McCall, John R.	Big Spring, TX
Jones, Albert	San Marcos, CA	McClain, Ross A.	Okla. City, OK
Jones, Harry L.	Milpitas, CA	McConnell, Herbert E.	Butler, PA
Julovich, Chris	Merrillville, IN	McCracken, Charles M.	Ft. Hood, TX
Kasper, Robert L.	Perry, OK	McEwen, Michael T.	Shawnee, OK
		McFarland, George M.	Watonga, OK

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Allan F. McGilbra **President**
Wm. Rex Wilson **Secretary/Editor**
Louis A. Scott **Associate Editor**
Herman Wilson **Publisher**
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 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111. **DO NOT SEND ITEMS THAT MUST BE RETURNED!**

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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